

Hafa Adai!

PSS presents online teacher and counselor of the year awards. **PAGE 3**
Bill allowing minors to serve alcohol passes Senate. **PAGE 5**

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SAND DIAMOND

SAIPAN ⇄ TINIAN

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Group photo shows the participants at the naming ceremony for the *Sand Diamond* at the Guangdong shipyard in China last week. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Ferry to connect Saipan, Tinian

Tinian took a major step last week toward opening up the island to tourism with a ferry service that will link it to Saipan before the year ends.

» **Move seen to open up tourism on Tinian**

Bridge Investment Group, which is developing a casino resort on Tinian, has leased the 49.5-meter *Sand Diamond*, which can carry 290 people and more

than 30 cars.

It is expected to begin regular daily sailings by the end of this year, according to a statement from the casino consulting company that is assisting

See **FERRY** on Page 4

‘Q1 collection not enough to lift austerity’

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Governor does not expect the revenue

collections in the first quarter to be enough for the CNMI government to be able to do away with austerity measures—at least for the first few

months of fiscal year 2020. That’s from October to December 2019.

But that is the nature of first quarters of every year, accord-

ing to a statement from the Torres administration. It said the Department of Finance projects relatively lower col-

See **AUSTERITY** on Page 4

Settlement Fund to update retirees via report, newsletter

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Fran-

ces Tydingco-Gatewood ordered NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang on Thursday to issue semi-annual financial report and an annual

newsletter to all retirees for keep them updated.

Tydingco-Gatewood gave the order after Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) told the

court about the concerns of some retirees, especially those who have no access to the internet, who wish to have a

See **FUND** on Page 4

Hopes for a ‘true revival’ of Japan tourism market pinned on regular Skymark flights

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds is pinning her hopes on the regular international flight service that Skymark Airlines Inc. plans to kick off this December to signal



King-Hinds

a true revival of the Japan market for CNMI’s tourism industry.

King-Hinds said yesterday other board members

are also hoping the regular flights from Narita to Saipan will expand opportunities for the people of the Marianas to explore

Japan through this gateway.

“We are excited and looking forward to welcoming Skymark’s regularly scheduled flights to the Marianas,”

she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said they hope CPA’s Airline Incentive Program will complement Skymark’s

See **HOPES** on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The Guam Visitors Bureau hosts a visitor industry briefing on the dengue virus.

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NATION

The whistleblower at the heart of impeachment proceedings against President Trump is expected to testify.

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LIFE & STYLE

In her online Master-Class, Anna Wintour is revealing at least some of what she’s thinking.

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Local

Scholarship Office has 1,013 applicants in 2019

The CNMI Scholarship Office is reporting an increase in its number of applicants in 2019. Office administrator Rose Camacho reported to the scholarship board that they have received a total of 1,031 total applicants in 2019; the office reported around 700 or 800 applicants in prior years. In 2018, the office saw this number jump to over 1,000 applicants—its highest number to date.

In her report, Camacho said that 191 applications have been approved as of last Monday, 65 applications are pending, seven applications have been denied, and 19 applica-

tions are awaiting follow-up.

The 19 applications are still being checked as the scholarship office is still verifying some information about the applicants.

The office offers financial aid for high school, undergraduate, trades school, graduate, and post-graduate programs. Most of their programs focus on undergraduates, post-graduates, and graduate students.

The common criteria require students to have a 2.75 grade point average but other programs provide incentives for those who reach 3.5 GPA and above. (Marc A. Venus)



The Lady Diann Torres Foundation, in partnership with other government agencies, donated 100 pillows to Commonwealth Health Center dialysis patients yesterday.

MARC A. VENUS

LDTF donates pillows to CHC dialysis patients

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation, in partnership with the CNMI Office of the Governor, Office of Grants Management, and the Women's Affairs Office donated pillows and pillow cases to Commonwealth Health Center's Dialysis Center yesterday for the use of its patients.

First lady Diann Torres said this was the first time that the team has donated to the Dialysis Center, since donations must follow the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s standards and regulations.

"We have been looking at conducting donations like this, but we must comply with the hospital's policies," Torres said.

About 100 pillows and pillow cases were donated to the center.

The donation focused on dialysis patients as they come in for sessions every other day; each patient is required to go through dialysis at least three times a week. Torres said that the patients will be able to keep the pillows for their use as being

comfortable is the most important thing that they should keep in mind.

"These patients have to go through three- to four-hour sessions every other day and it is difficult, so giving them something to help them feel comfortable while in their session is something that we can do," Torres said.

Torres said that this donation is also in preparation for the group's Resiliency Fest, that will be happening on Oct. 26 at the Marianas Business Plaza. (Marc A. Venus)

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 4, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Petitioners

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the Adoption of L. J. L. M., a minor child,)
CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0428-FCD

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption and Change of Name has been filed in this matter, and that the Petition will be heard by the Court on October 21, 2019 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. at the Marianas Business Plaza.

DATED: 9/24/19

/s/ Clerk of Court

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PSS presents online teacher and counselor of the year awards



Rose Salas, center, is awarded the prestigious Online Counselor of the Year Award during a surprise visit by Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology at the Public School System, center right, Lorraine Catienza, program manager, center left, and Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, associate PSS commissioner, far right.

MARC VENUS



Karen Camacho, center, receives the Online Teacher of the Year Award from Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology at the Public School System, center right, Lorraine Catienza, program manager, center left, and Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, associate PSS commissioner, center left.

MARC VENUS

By MARC A. VENUS

marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Karen Echon Camacho of Saipan Southern High School was recognized as the Public School System's Online Teacher of the Year, while Rose Salas of Marianas High School got the Online Counselor of the Year Award in recognitions bestowed by the PSS Instructional Technology & Distance Education Program last Friday.

The online program team of PSS gave Camacho a surprise visit to give her the award just as she was about to begin her first period class at SSHS last Friday.

"I am honored...[and] most thankful for being given the opportunity to work with some of the best educators on island...and I've learned a lot through the years of teaching online and will continue to become a better online teacher," Camacho said.

Similarly, Salas was about to help a student with counseling services when the PSS team surprised her with the award. She gave thanks for the award and to the Distance Education program.

"The program has grown a lot over the past several years and I'm happy I was able to contribute to its success,"

Releasing of renewed PH passports

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will be releasing passports to those who renewed their Philippine passports last Aug. 15, 16, and 17, 2019. You can pick up the new passports at Finasisu Terraces Apartment Bldg. D, second floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday-Friday, from 9am to 5pm (12-1pm breaktime).

Please bring your old passport and receipt. If someone else will pick up the passport, an authorization letter from the applicant/s is needed. For any inquiry or more details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

she said.

Program director Dr. Bobby Cruz said that it is always a difficult process to select one outstanding teacher and one exceptional counselor when there is a team of educational professionals who are all worthy to receive the honor.

He said Camacho is "beyond deserving" of the honor as she has shown exceptional teaching quality to support her online students as well as outstanding leadership in supporting her colleagues, while Salas, as the program's first-ever online counselor, provides a wealth of inventions and support to not only students in her charge but to online teachers as well.

Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, PSS associate commissioner of Student & Support Services, said that Camacho is an "amazing educator" on the ground and online as she is dedicated to helping her students learn and deserves the recognition; while Salas "has really set a high standard" for making connections with students that increase the likelihood that they will succeed, and that she is an asset to PSS and the student online portal.

"We are blessed by both these professionals serving our children," Pangelinan said.

According to Distance Education manager Lorraine Catienza, Camacho has served as a member of the online teaching team since the program's creation, serving eight years teaching mathematics, while Salas is one of the longest serving online counselors to date.

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Justices affirm resentencing of man to 10 years in prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed the maximum 10-year prison term that Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed on a 27-year-old man who sexually abused a girl since she was only 6 years old on Tinian.

In its order last Friday, the high court, however, granted Anthony Herrera Borja's petition for rehearing of their (high court) decision with respect to the parole eligibility restriction issue.

In their order, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos reconsidered their earlier decision and agreed with Camacho's ruling that Borja is eligible for parole after six years in prison.

Castro, Manglona, and Inos said they find that Camacho did not commit plain error and did not abuse his discretion in justifying Borja's parole eligibility restriction.

The justices said there was no procedural error in Camacho's justification, such as reliance on an impermissible aggravating factor.

Further, the justices said, Camacho carefully considered when the victim would reach the age of majority to determine Borja's parole eligibility.

"We find this a proper jus-

tification and do not perceive the restriction as substantively unreasonable," the justices said.

According to court records, in 2012, the Office of the Attorney General charged Borja with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, indecent exposure in the first degree, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

In 2013, the OAG and Borja

» Justices reconsider earlier ruling on parole eligibility issue

entered into a plea agreement. He pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment. Camacho then sentenced him to 10 years in prison.

Borja appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court.

In 2015, the high court vacated his 10-year sentence and remanded the matter for resentencing.

In vacating the sentence, the high court noted that the sentence was not individualized enough to Borja's case.

In June 2017, Camacho resentedenced Borja to the maximum 10-year prison term but said he is eligible for parole after six years.

The 10-year prison term is

the same sentence that Camacho previously imposed on Borja. The difference is that the new sentence allowed the defendant to be eligible for parole after serving six years.

In 2018, Borja appealed his sentence again to the high court.

Borja argued that his sentence was not sufficiently individualized, the restriction on parole was not properly justified, and the case should be remanded to a different judge for resentencing.

In December 2018, the high court affirmed Borja's 10-year sentence, but remanded the case to cure a defect restricting his parole eligibility.

The justices ruled that because the parole statute requires Borja to serve at least six years and eight months to be eligible for parole, the six-year restriction impermissibly restricted his parole eligibility below the minimum parole prescribed by law.

The justices said because the prison term was affirmed and remanded only to correct the parole eligibility defect, the high court declined to review Borja's request to remand the case to a different judge.

Borja, through assistant public defender Nancy A. Dominski, however, filed a petition for rehearing.

Dominski argued that the record is inadequate to dem-

onstrate a sufficiently individualized sentence and that the high court's determinations concerning Borja's parole eligibility are unfounded.

In their order Friday granting Borja's petition for rehearing, the justices ruled that their review of the record does not suggest Camacho failed to weigh factors at all, but rather examined and measured the factors he found to be the most pertinent.

The justices said to the extent that Borja maintains the sentence is not individualized is not grounds for reconsideration as this is just a recital of an argument already heard and decided on appeal.

On his parole eligibility issue, the justices granted Borja's petition for a rehearing and reconsidered their previous statements concerning his parole restriction.

The justices said they write to clarify that Public Law 12-82 and 12-41—the provisions prior to the current statutes—determine the maximum sentence Borja may serve and when he would be eligible for parole.

In 2012, Borja was charged with multiple offenses, including sexual abuse.

Under Public Law 12-82, the justices said, the maximum penalty for the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree is 10 years' imprisonment.

The justices said the law did not impose a mandatory minimum sentence a defendant must serve.

Under to Public Law 12-41, the justice said, Borja is eligible for parole after serving one-third of his unsuspended prison sentence. Borja's unsuspended sentence is 10 years.

Without further restriction, the justices said, Borja would be eligible for parole after serving three years and four months.

The justices said because Borja's eligibility for parole was restricted greater than what was lawfully required, they must determine whether the sentencing judge properly justified the parole discretion.

The justices said Camacho considered a number of factors

in restricting parole eligibility.

In particular, the justices said, Camacho reasoned that restricting eligibility for parole until the victim reached the age of majority would allow the victim to make a more informed decision on her relationship with Borja.

The justices said Camacho considered the victim's statement that she did not feel adversely affected by Borja's conduct as well as Borja's young age at the time of the offense (18 years old).

Ultimately, the justices said, Camacho determined that six years was sufficient time to offset any potential danger to the victim.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr., appeared as counsel for the government.

HOPES

From Page 1

business plan and provide them with the necessary support to sustain the daily flights to and from Japan.

King-Hinds congratulated Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Marianas Visitors Authority for "their hard work and efforts" to develop this relation-

ship with Skymark.

Skymark, a low-cost domestic airline based in Japan, has announced the launch of its first-ever regular international service, a non-stop flight connecting Narita and Saipan by the end of December 2019.

The regular service between Narita and Saipan will be once daily, with a flight time of approximately three and a half hours.

AUSTERITY

From Page 1

lections in the first quarter of every fiscal year due to the cyclical nature of businesses and seasonal activity of certain industries.

"...The current collection rate is not enough to lift the current austerity measures within the first quarter of fiscal year 2020," the administration said. "Because revenue collections remain a concern as we enter the new fiscal year, the administration will continue its 72-hour work schedule for the first quarter in order to monitor cash flow, continue essential public services, and prevent furloughs.

It promised, though, that the Torres administration will revisit the government's cash position toward the end of the first quarter to determine the probability of restoring work schedules back to 80 hours.

"Maintaining financial responsibility now by continuing the 72-hour work schedule will ensure that every government employee keeps their job, while eventually getting the CNMI back on track to pre-Super Typhoon Yutu levels," Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted in the statement.

Finance Secretary David Atalig, according to the statement, noted that the CNMI is still affected by significant recovery costs as a result of the 2018 typhoon season, loss

of economic activity from businesses affected by the typhoons, low tourism arrivals, and the variable costs of medical referral, healthcare, and public safety.

"The CNMI is experiencing fiscal constraints caused by various factors. In fiscal year 2018, the CNMI incurred deficit spending from the general fund of approximately \$19 million from medical referral, healthcare, and public safety, which are historically variable costs in order to meet the needs of our community. The natural disasters experienced in September and October 2018 required the government to undertake extraordinary expenditures of approximately \$50 million yet to be reimbursed by our [Federal Emergency Management Agency] partners," Atalig said.

Combined with the loss of economic activity and business gross revenue taxes after Super Typhoon Yutu, fiscal year 2019 revenues fell short by about \$19 million. The CNMI government stands at a deficit of \$89.9 million at the start of fiscal year 2020.

Atalig noted that additional financing from the 2019 Marianas Public Land Trust loan and additional support from the Legislature to appropriate additional funding for general fund obligations have significantly improved the CNMI's growing negative position.

FERRY

From Page 1

Bridge Investment Group with the casino on Tinian.

A naming ceremony for the vessel was held in Guangdong Province, China, last week. The ceremony was attended by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), who is floor leader of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, and Senate vice president Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) of the 21st CNMI Legislature and chairman of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative

Delegation.

"The Commonwealth's leaders are always seeking for ways to better the islands' economy and, with this objective in mind, we welcome business leaders and investors with the hope of working together strategically to improve the Northern Marianas for all of our people through economic development opportunities," said Hofschneider.

Danny Ewing, director of operations of U.S.-based casino consultants to the project, Clear Management, said, "The launch of the *Sand Diamond* will cater to the large demand

for Saipan visitors to experience Tinian and all the entertainment options it offers...."

The Tinian casino itself that Bridge Investment Group is developing on Tinian is scheduled to open in the second quarter of 2020, according to the Clear Management statement.

Previously, the only access to Tinian has been by plane, soon after the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino shut down the ferry service it used to operate between Saipan and Tinian.

According to the press statement, the Tinian casino is the first phase in a master plan for

the Wyndham Hotel & Resort, billed as the largest tourism and hospitality investment on the island.

"Wyndham Hotel Group, as the international operator, is excited to see this latest commitment by the owners and developers of the Wyndham Hotel & Resort Tinian," said David Wray, Wyndham senior vice president, Acquisition and Development. "The introduction of this luxurious fast ferry service, will open up to the world the treasures of Tinian and the opportunity to experience one of the world's most beautiful islands." (*Saipan Tribune*)

FUND

From Page 1

regular report from the trustee.

Sablan said that retirees just want more communication.

Tang agreed to do more to provide information to those retirees who do not have on-line access.

David M. Sablan Sr., also known as Uncle Dave, recently wrote to Tydingco-Gatewood suggesting the newsletter as a way for retirees to obtain information about the Settlement Fund's operations.

In response to David Sablan's letter, Tang informed Tydingco-Gatewood during Thursday's hearing that information regarding the Settlement Fund, including the CNMI government's Minimum Annual Payment and investment reports, is posted monthly on the Settlement Fund website.

Tang said the Settlement Fund has published newsletters to update its membership on the status of their fund.

She said the next issue will be published and mailed to members in October 2019.

Tang said she and Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan and the Fund's investment consultant, Maggie Ralbovsky, have already met with David Sablan to discuss his concerns.

The trustee said they assured David Sablan at that meeting that the government has been making the MAP as required under the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action and advised him on the status of the Fund's investments.

David Sablan also asked that information on the Settlement Fund's investment performance be provided by mail

to members as he believes that a number of the retirees do not have access or do not know how to access the Settlement Fund's website.

Tang said they informed David Sablan that they will look into mailing brief quarterly or semi-annual reports to members.

Tang said in a later interview Thursday that they have taken David Sablan's concerns into consideration.

"We are doing what we can to provide the information to them the old-fashioned way," she said.

Bill allowing minors to serve alcohol passes Senate

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate was one vote shy of unanimously supporting a bill that would allow minors,

or individuals who are aged below 21, to serve alcoholic beverages as a job.

In their session last Sept. 27, 2019, on Capital Hill, the Senate voted 8-1 to pass Rep. Joel Camacho's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-48, a bill that seeks to allow employers to hire individuals who are at least 18 years old to serve alcoholic beverages.

Current law sets the age of consent for alcohol at 21. H.B. 21-48 seeks to go around this prohibition by allowing those below 21 years old to be employed as waitstaff and

be allowed to serve alcoholic drinks. The proposed law, however, would not allow them to mix the drinks.

Sen. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voted against the measure.

"As I understand and acknowledge our workforce needs, which is what the bill is aimed to address, I felt I needed to stay consistent as I have advocated in the past [in] working with youth groups on the topic of minors and alcohol use," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview. "In this particular case, I believe our hospitality industry and the individuals they employ are diverse

enough to complement the needs of different establishments in the CNMI."

In the purpose section of the bill, Camacho said the intent of the bill is to remove "hiring bias" when it comes to certain employment positions.

"I believe many of our young individuals as well as adults have a choice to be responsible," he told *Saipan Tribune*, responding to a question of whether his legislation would prematurely introduce alcohol to individuals less than 21 years of age.

"This bill's main intent is to remove the potential hiring bias that acts as a barrier that would help many young indi-

viduals attain meaningful employment and gain valuable work experience as they save up to go to college or other life endeavors," he said.

Camacho shared a similar comment when the legislation first passed the House in a July 12, 2019 House session.

"I believe this is a good way to transition our people into the workforce in this 10-year transition period that was afforded to us by U.S. Congress," he had said, referring to the law that extended the CNMI's foreign worker program, CW, by 10 years.

The CW-1 program is the main visa used by foreign temporary workers in the CNMI.

DVAM proclamation signing today

The proclamation signing ceremony for Domestic Violence Awareness Month will be held today, Oct. 1, at 10am, at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

The ceremony, which is hosted by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force, will mark 25 years of recognizing the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM, pronounced "DEE-vam") in the CNMI.

The proclamation signing will also feature a guest speaker and the presentation of the Bridge of Light Award, as well as exhibits from different community programs.

Community members are also invited to the Day of Unity on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Garapan Fishing Base. The family fun event will be from 11am to 4pm and will feature live cultural entertainment, exhibits, child-friendly activities, food vendors, as well as raffle prizes and free DVAM T-shirts for the first 200.

The candlelight vigil for victims of domestic violence will be held at 5:30pm on Friday, Oct. 25, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Azucena Hall. The event aims to remember and grieve for those lost to domestic violence.

There will also be the Purple Wave, Roll & Walk event on Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 4pm to 6pm at the Oleai Pa-

vilion. The event will open with registration and free face-painting and poster making before the roadside waving and then transition into the walk and roll activity. Participants are also welcome to bring their own signs or banners and to wear purple to help spread awareness on domestic violence. The first 200 who register will also be given a free DVAM T-shirt.

There will also be events happening on Rota and Tinian throughout the month for DVAM. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/endviolencenmi or contact the NMCADSV at info@endviolencenmi.org.

There will also be public discussions with a variety of guest speakers on topics related to domestic violence on KKMP 92.1 FM every on Tuesday morning in October starting on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019. There will also be a guest appearance on the Marianas Agupa' radio show (100.3 FM) on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019.

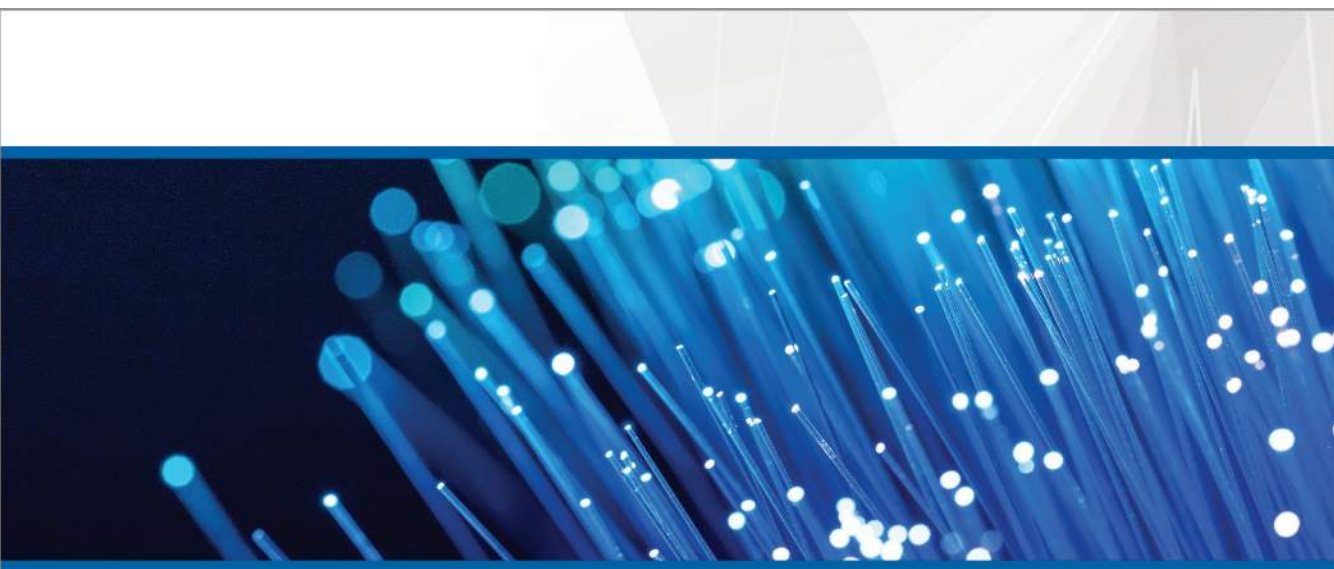
A theme is chosen each year by the DVAM Committee, which is composed of NMCADSV, the Family Violence Task Force, partner programs and agencies, and community volunteers. The 2019 DVAM theme is "Survivor Strong!"

For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org or contact FVTF at 664-4582/4583. (PR)



TATTED POLES

An ancient Chamorro house and the traditional show of respect for elders called *fan ngingi* is portrayed in one of Rota's tatted poles under Project Haligi, which portrays the culture of indigenous people of the Marianas in the concrete lampposts installed after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in October 2018. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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FEMA breaks ground on 1st house it will rebuild in NMI



The team behind the first brand-new, fully concrete home built under the CNMI-Federal Emergency Management Agency Permanent Home Construction (PHC-New)

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Almost a year after the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, the Federal Emergency Management Agency broke ground in Koblerville yesterday for the first house it will rebuild under the CNMI-FEMA Permanent Home Construc-

tion, or PHC-New.

The new building will be fully concrete and will be rebuilt for free.

The original house, owned by Soledad Ito, was one of the 462 homes that Yutu destroyed on Saipan. Yutu completely destroyed over 500 homes in the CNMI, leaving over a thousand people homeless. Ito currently lives adjacent to the

destroyed house, in a wooden house constructed for her by her siblings.

"After the typhoon, it was very hard because I just lost my husband, and when Yutu came, I lost my house. ...I had nothing. ...I was living in shock. ...I did not know what to do," Ito recalls.

FEMA deputy regional administrator William "Bill"

Roche expressed appreciation for Ito's patience, as well as the many other survivors who are in line for the FEMA project.

Yutu survivors eligible for the PHC program are provided assistance in the form of brand-new constructed homes that will be built according to the standards of the CNMI's latest adopted International



IVA MAURIN

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Federal Emergency Management Agency deputy regional administrator William "Bill" Roche breaks the ground for the first brand-new, fully concrete home that will be built under the CNMI-FEMA Permanent Home Construction, as first lady Diann Torres and recipient Soledad Ito look on.

Building Codes.

The new homes will be built complete with typhoon-proof shutters, backup water tanks, and kitchens with the ability to be enclosed for security purposes. The new construction is provided, in lieu of financial assistance from FEMA, to each eligible resident.

"It is a great day for the CNMI, and a great day for FEMA," FEMA's Sheryl Ann Clark said. "Yutu hit us almost a year ago, and there have been lots of people working behind the scenes to make sure that today can happen."

"These folks have worked tirelessly with the survivors, whether it's for the repair of homes that we've already started, or whether it was for

the new construction. So I just want to thank everybody who's participating, including, of course, our contractor on this particular event," she added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also thanked FEMA, the contractors, and all the agencies who have been working hard to help the rebuilding effort.

Ito said that FEMA contacted her about the PHC program and she opted immediately to have a new house built, in lieu of FEMA cash assistance.

"We went to the seminar in Feb. 12, and we were told that the house will have a water catchment, shutters, everything. What they are doing is very, very helpful. It really is a brand-new day."

E-Land turns over new bus shelter in Hopwood

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School students who have to wait for their school bus to get to their temporary campus need not stand under the sun and rain anymore.

Last Friday, Kensington Hotel Saipan turned over a bus shelter at Hopwood to the Public School System's Office of Pupil Transportation.

The bus shelter is the fourth of its newly-built bus stops, and the 11th of the bus stop projects that Kensington Hotel's parent company, E-land Group, has built all over Saipan.

"We have made 11 bus shelters since we came here. We are very glad to have a chance to work with the community and provide for the children's bus shelter. I wish they can keep this one clean and beautiful all their lives for the environment. The [kids] deserve this," said E-Land chief executive officer Matthew Park.

Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag said the new bus shelter in Afetna "will really help our students be covered under the sun and when it rains."

"We have hundreds of students residing here because this is really close to our old campus," she added.



IVA MAURIN

From left, Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, E-Land chief executive officer Matthew Park, Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh, and Office of Pupil Transportation director Shawn San Nicolas cut the ribbon for the new bus shelter at Hopwood last Friday.

According to Liwag, the bus shelter will serve as a place for students to be picked up and dropped off since the area is a new route going to Hopwood due to the relocation of their temporary school campus.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said the turnover of the new bus stop is just in time for the students living in the area since it is now the rainy season.

With 117 bus stops on the

island, there are sites that are designated as bus shelters but do not have actual structures. The Office of Pupil Transportation is thankful to the many community groups and private companies that are helping build the bus shelters.

"We are encouraging other organizations...to come out, give us a call, and see where we need bus shelters because [there are still] a few more bus shelters

locations out there that do not actually have a real structure," said Office of Pupil Transportation director Shawn San Nicolas.

Aside from Hopwood students, the new bus shelter will also serve Saipan Southern High School and Koblerville Elementary School students.

For groups or individuals who are willing to help build bus shelters, contact the Office of Pupil Transportation at 322-9457.

Torres to speak at Chamber monthly meeting

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will be the guest speaker at the upcoming general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

Torres will speak about the administration's policy initiatives with a focus on the foreign worker (CW) application process and the recent announcement by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to extend the application deadline to Nov. 1, 2019. The governor will also talk about his commitment to collaboration between the administra-

tion and the private sector.

Lunch will be served at 11:30am and the meeting will begin promptly at noon. The luncheon fee is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. The Chamber is accepting reservations of six or more. To reserve or for more information, contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization. For more information, follow SPNChamber on Facebook or visit their website at www.saipanchamber.com. (PR)

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged Tank Beach and Hidden Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (en-

terococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Annual Oktoberfest comes to the Hyatt



A selection of cheeses, smoked cheese salami, smoked ham and dried fruits awaits guests at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Oktoberfest celebration on Oct. 4 and 5 at the Kili Cafe & Terrace.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beecabbie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The annual "Oktoberfest" in Germany is recognized as the biggest beer festival in the world—a time for German families and friends to come together to share unlimited kegs of ice-cold beer and the delicious food that pairs well with that. Oktoberfest has been running for over 200 years. To date, over 6 million people from around the world go to Germany to join the bacchanalia, making this tradition hard to miss.

This year, you won't need to go to Munich to take part in this unique celebration. Hyatt Regency Saipan is bringing this German tradition to the island on Oct. 4 and 5 at Kili Cafe & Terrace, from 6pm to 9pm.

Hyatt executive chef Hartmut Kehm, who hails from Frankfurt, Germany, will showcase the heart and soul of Oktoberfest for two nights at the Kili Cafe with traditional German food paired with locally crafted Munich-style Marzen beer from Saipan Brewing Co.

According to Kehm, "people from north to south of Germany celebrate as early as mid-September up to October. The tradition started in the 1800s because of a royal wedding where the whole village was invited and a horse race was held to add to the fun," he said.

The celebration was repeated the following year and became bigger and bigger into what is known as Oktoberfest today, he added.

Preparation is key to a successful observance of Oktoberfest. Germans typically begin the celebration with cheese, sausages, and cold cuts. Khem will be replicating that at the Hyatt, starting with appetizers that include a good selection of cheese and smoked cheese salami, smoked ham, air dried beer beef, German sausage "braunschweiger."

"We have salmon and

mackerel as parts of the appetizers because seafood is also a part of the traditional Oktoberfest menu as many villages are located in the coastal towns in Germany," Kehm said.

Laugen bretzel or soft pretzels, brotchen or bread rolls, and roggenmischbrot or sourdough rye will also be present.

The traditional kartoffel-salat bacon or creamy mustard mayonnaise potato salad, as well as tasty lentil soup with sausage and ham will also be part of the menu.

"This is so because October in Germany is autumn season, where the weather is starting to get chilly. That is why we have food that makes one [feel] warm inside," Kehm added.

Chicken and pork are staples in the traditional Oktoberfest meal spread. "During this time, Germans are not really big on beef as we rely on cows for milk. ...For the meat, Germans are not big on frying but on baking the meat, making sure that it will come out tender and juicy," said Kehm.

For hot entrees, guests will surely be dazzled by the schweinshaxe or Bavarian roasted pork knuckles, glasierter schinken or honey-glazed ham with apple sauce and roasted chicken sitting on a full can of Heineken beer.

Khem promises that the pork knuckle will be a "fork tender" experience and the crispy skin will have great flavor with every bite. The honey-glazed ham will be juicy, full of flavor and with a caramelized sugar coating. The roasted chicken is a feast itself because it will be succulent. These dishes promise to be perfect with beer.

Other meats include bratwurst or grilled sausages and Frikadellen or hamburger steak.

For desserts, a traditional Oktoberfest meal is not complete without chocolate and pudding. Pastry chef Angelo Ricadio will make German-inspired desserts like schwarzwalders kirsch roulade or black forest roll cake, geback-



Pork belly dipped in a special sauce paired with sauerkraut awaits guests at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Oktoberfest celebration.

BEA CABRERA



Chocolate is always present in German dessert. Black forest cake with thick chocolate shavings awaits guests at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Oktoberfest celebration.

BEA CABRERA

they were reduced in grand marneir de cort, garnished with thick chocolate shavings and the cake itself is a chocolate sponge," Ricadio said.



Chicken and pork are a staple in German cuisine. Roasted pork knuckles, honey-glazed ham with apple sauce, and roasted chicken awaits guests at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Oktoberfest celebration.

BEA CABRERA

From authentic German appetizers to the main course and desserts, Khem promises to make Oktoberfest come alive on Saipan.

The dinner buffet is priced

at \$65 per person and \$45 for Club at the Hyatt members. Reservations are highly recommended. For more inquiries, call (670) 234-1234 ext. 26.



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FSM urges US to investigate labor abuse allegations

The Federated States of Micronesia has asked the U.S. government to investigate allegations involving multiple FSM citizens being abused by an employer in Iowa.

The request was lodged through the FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C. after FSM president David W. Panuelo learned of the potential abuse. The U.S. government was asked to assist in investigating allegations that several citizens of the FSM are suffering from "serious and sustained abuse" by Seaboard Triumph Food, a pork processing facility in Sioux City, Iowa.

The FSM government noted that the allegations include potential human trafficking, labor abuse, and other violations.

"...We have received reports that representatives of Seaboard Triumph Food have been traveling to Pohnpei, FSM, to recruit Micronesian citizens to work at Seaboard Triumph Food's Iowa facility," the diplomatic letter noted.

The allegations of abuse include employees saying that the work they are performing is inconsistent with the descriptions provided by the recruiters and with the terms of employment contracts they signed; physical and emotional harassment, including verbal abuse; issuing false social security numbers for employees; seizing passports and withholding passports to threaten or punish workers; and refusing to provide em-

ployees with copies of their employment contracts.

Noting that "dozens of FSM citizens" have reported the allegations, the FSM government asked the U.S. government to investigate under the terms of the Amended Compact and its related agreements, including the Agreement Regarding Protections for Citizens of Micronesia Seeking to Engage in Employment in the US Pursuant to Recruitment or Other Placement Services.

Section D(1) of the Law Enforcement Agreement between the FSM and the United States specifically provides that the U.S. government will investigate the mistreatment of recruited FSM citizens.

"The [FSM government] is extremely concerned about these allegations. Under the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the U.S., FSM citizens have the right to live and work in the U.S. without obtaining a visa," the letter said. "The [FSM government] respectfully requests the [US government's] urgent attention and action on this matter. We would be pleased to provide additional information as needed."

The FSM Embassy has also reported the allegations to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. A press statement from the FSM government said that it will continue to explore other options to ensure its citizens are safe and protected while employed in the

United States.

FSM citizens who live in the U.S. are encouraged to contact the FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C. about this matter, or any other matter that requires governmental as-

sistance or intervention at +1-202-223-4383, dcm@fsmembassydc.org, or through its online contact form available at <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/webform/contact-us>. **(Erwin Encinares/Iva Maurin)**

MVA welcomes members for new fiscal year

New and returning members of the Marianas Visitors Authority are invited to be involved in the tourism industry by applying for membership for fiscal year 2020, which begins today, Oct. 1, 2019.

The MVA invites businesses, organizations, and individuals interested in being involved in and supporting tourism in the Marianas to join the state tourism agency. Membership can be applied for and paid on the MVA's official website, www.mymarianas.com, or in person at the MVA offices in San Jose, Saipan, in San Jose, Tinian, or in Songsong, Rota.

MVA membership is \$100 per year. Benefits of membership include: business listing on the MVA's language-specific websites in Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and English; opportunities for business brochure distribution at MVA offices within the Marianas and internationally; opportunities

to participate in travel and trade shows, sales seminars, and familiarization tours; detailed visitor data through monthly statistics reports; nomination and voting rights for the MVA board of directors; the opportunity to be a supplier or contractor for the MVA.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority greatly values in input and support of our members," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iaokopo. "We invite those that willing to work with us to make the Marianas a premiere destination to join our membership in FY 2020 as we continue to build our economy and community through the tourism industry."

In fiscal year 2019, the MVA has had over 230 members.

For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or contact community projects coordinator Jack Aranda at the MVA Membership Division at 1 (670) 664-3210 or jaranda@mymarianas.com. **(MVA)**

Cash reward for fish with tags

The National Oceanic Marine Resource Authority is offering cash awards to onboard longliners and onboard purse seiners who would find tuna fishes with tags.

Tags are either orange, white, or yellow.

For longliners who find a whole fish with an orange tag, the reward is \$250 for an electronic tag, plus \$10 for orange tag, plus \$10/kg of fish. For a whole fish with a white tag, the reward is \$100 plus \$10/kg of fish. For a yellow tag, reward is \$10 or a tagging cap or a tagging shirt.

For fish with orange or white tags, NOMRA requires that the fish not be gilled and gutted, and for the tags to be left in the fish. A photo of the

fish should also be taken, with the tag still inside the fish, on top of a deck tape. The fish should also be measured accurately, and the tag recovery form should be filled. Also contact The Pacific Community via email at carolines@spc.int. NOMRA will buy the whole fish.

The following information should also be noted: date found, tag number, species, fork length, date and position of catch, catcher vessel name and gear type, and the names of the finder, including contact details, and the observer (if onboard).

For onboard purse seiners who find a fish with a tag, the reward is \$260 for the finder and \$50 for the observer, for

an orange tag (plus archival tag and the whole fish). For a whole fish with a white tag, the reward is \$100 for the finder and \$50 for the observer. For a yellow tag, reward is \$10 or a tagging cap or a tagging shirt.

For fish with orange or white tags, NOMRA requires that the tags be left in the fish. The fish should also be placed in the freezer (do not let the fish defrost). Also contact SPC via email at carolines@spc.int, and bring the fish to the closest fisheries office for collection of samples.

Observers are to take a photo of the fish with the tag still inside the fish or on top of a deck tape. The fish should also be measured accurately, and

the tag recovery form should be filled. Observers should also seek permission from the captain to place the fish aside, and should immediately contact SPC and the observer coordinator. Samples should also be collected if able, or keep the fish frozen at all times.

The following information should also be noted: date found, tag number, species, fork length (as shown in the photo), date and position of catch, catcher vessel name and gear type, and the names of the finder, including contact details, and the observer (if onboard).

To receive the reward, contact the local fisheries office. If a tag is given to you by someone else, inform SPC. For more information, visit spc.int/tagging. **(Iva Maurin)**

Military trainings set

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Guam Army National Guard 1-294th Infantry Regiment will conduct training on Oct. 5-6 at Radio Barrigada, from 7am to 12pm.

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training on Oct. 1-3, from 11am to 11:55pm, at the Dandan-Malol training site in Inarajan.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517, Warning Area 12, Warning Area 11 Alpha Bravo, and an alternative site during the following dates and times:

■ From midnight to 11:59pm, Sept. 30 through Oct. 6 at W-517 and W-12

■ From 6am to 7pm, Oct. 1-2, at the alternative site

■ From midnight to 11:59pm, Oct. 1-2, at W-11AB W-517 is activated. It begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

All vessels are advised to remain 100 nautical-miles outside of the training areas.

Galvez Banks and Santa Rosa Reef will be closed for the duration of training.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

Navy underwater training

The U.S. Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile

Unit 5 will conduct routine underwater detonation training on Oct. 3, from 8am to 4pm Oct. 2 and from 8am to 5pm at the coordinates 13°27.42"N/144°38.30"E in outer Apra Harbor.

EODMU-5 will detonate a total of five lbs of explosives at the designated location on a sandy area of the sea floor.

For the safety of the public and participants involved, the U.S. Coast Guard will establish safety zones to restrict access in the vicinity of the training area.

EODMU-5 performs routine underwater detonation training to develop the skills needed to be ready to rapidly respond to operational missions and unexploded ordnance support in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Navy conducted a multi-year environmental analysis, which the National Marine Fisheries Service, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, granted the Navy authorization to conduct underwater detonation training. The Navy is a committed environmental steward and employs protective measures to safeguard marine resources.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be visually cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before, during, and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily, if a person or marine life is seen in the area. **(PR)**

VOX POPULI

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the CNMI marked the week of Sept. 23-27 as CNMI Ally Week, *Saipan Tribune* asked allies and members of the LGBTQ+ community why allies are important.



Manglona

—Michael C. Manglona



Kaipat

Allies help strengthen the bonds we have between the LGBTQ+ community. It is a very sensitive topic for some people and to have these allies really show us the support system that we have from our

Why are LGBTQ+ allies important?

peers and our superiors.

—Chantilly Kaipat



Sakisat

Allies make a safe space for everyone so they can feel comfortable with who they are, and to be comfortable with who they are anywhere.

—Jovil Sakisat



Aldan

Allies are important in the CNMI because without them, we would not be able to feel comfortable expressing ourselves and supporting other people. We just need a strong base in order for things to grow better.

—Mariah Aldan



Furey

Allies can help make our island community more understanding and

supportive of the CNMI LGBTQ+ youth.

—Elizabeth Furey



Ulechong

be who they truly are.

—Alliyah Ulechong



Tobias

Allies allow our LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe, to feel accepted. I am in the community myself and allies helped me through my acceptance of my identity. What more for our children today. They are important because they help you process, they help you accept, and they help you move along in your journey of accepting who you are.

—Jericho Tobias

Chief Aghurubw Day



The Carolinian/Refaluwasch community honors Chief Aghurubw last Saturday on Managaha Island as part of Cultural Heritage Month celebration this month. The event is the 49th annual commemoration to recognize the leadership of Aghurubw, who led his people from the Caroline Islands 204 years ago and resettled in the Northern Mariana in 1815. At that time, the Caroline Islands had just been devastated by a typhoon. A monument of Aghurubw was erected on Managaha Island on Sept. 18, 1970, in his memory.

IVA MAURIN

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

The threat of terror remains real in United States

“A North Texas man was sentenced today to 240 months in federal prison for conspiring to provide material support to ... a Pakistani-based foreign terrorist organization.”

In the confines of North Texas, it can be easy to assume that we are far outside the reach of foreign terrorist organizations and that no one who lives here would consider supporting such groups. But in recent weeks three stories have slid by that deserve more public attention than they've gotten.

The first involves Michael Kyle Sewell, who was arrested in February, pleaded guilty in May and, as noted above, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for conspiring to provide support to a foreign terrorist organization. Sewell is only 18 years old, so not only will he serve more time in prison than he's been alive, he is also a person who has no living memory of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America even as he is now caught up in a legal system that was retooled following those attacks to be better equipped to stymie terrorist activity.

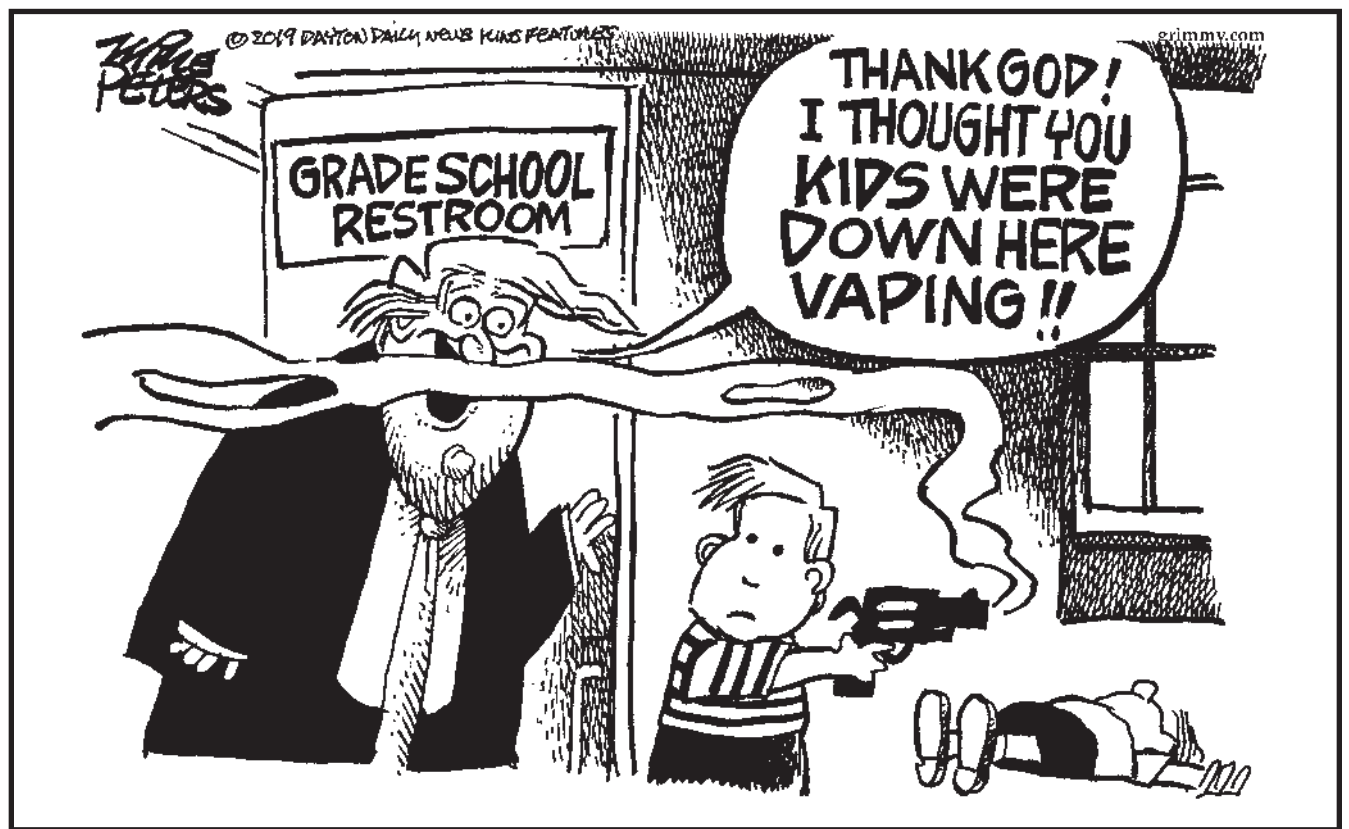
The other two stories occurred outside of Texas, but show that the Lone Star State isn't far removed from the world that involved alleged terrorist plots. One involved an American Airlines mechanic based in another state who is accused for sharing disturbing ISIS videos and of sabotaging a plane in July. He was arrested by the FBI, but it's too early to know where his case will end up. The other involves a U.S. Army soldier stationed in Kansas who was charged by federal authorities this week for allegedly sharing bomb-making instructions online and expressing a willingness to support an attack inside the United States.

The soldier, 24-year-old Jarrett William Smith of South Carolina, engaged in discussions online that apparently led investigators to conclude he posed a threat. He reportedly chatted with an undercover agent about targeting presidential candidate and former Rep. Beto O'Rourke of El Paso, Texas.

Our point is that even while the United States has waged foreign wars that have kept terrorist organizations on the defensive and even while our government has been successful in thwarting plots here at home, we can't lose sight of the fact that we live in an era when the threat of terrorism is real and the response to it has to remain substantive and evolve to meet new threats. In this case, the FBI and other officials have identified possible threats.

As these cases make their way through the courts, they should also make their way into public discussions. Unless we see how our authorities are dealing with threats, we won't be equipped to police federal officials in how they wield their power, nor will we be cognizant and supportive of necessary measures that are needed to prevent the next attack.

(c)2019 The Dallas Morning News



The death of American citizenship

The American founders institutionalized the best of a long Western tradition of representative government with the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. These contracts outlined the rare privileges and responsibilities of new American citizens.

Yet the concept of citizenship is being assaulted on the pre-modern side by the legal blending of mere residency with citizenship.

Estimates on the number of undocumented American residents range from 11 million to more than 20 million. The undocumented are becoming legally indistinguishable from citizens and enjoy exemption from federal immigration law in some 500 sanctuary jurisdictions. An illegal resident of California will pay substantially less tuition at a California public university than a U.S. citizen of another state.

Multiculturalism has reduced the idea of *e pluribus unum* to a regressive tribalism. Americans often seem to owe their first allegiance to those who look like they do. Citizens cannot even agree over once-hallowed and shared national holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July.

It is eerie how such current American retribalization resembles the collapse of Rome, as Goths, Huns and Vandals all squabbled among one another for what was left of 1,200 years of Roman citizenship—eager to destroy what they could neither create nor emulate.

Citizenship has always been protected by the middle classes—on the idea that they are more independent and self-reliant than the poor, but can stand up to the influence and power of the elite.

Yet until recently, we had seen a decade of stagnant wages and entire regions ossified by outsourcing, offshoring and unfair global trade. Historically, with the demise of the middle class so follows the end of constitutional government.

But citizenship also faces a quite different and even greater postmodern threat.

Many of our coastal elites see nothing much exceptional in America, past and present. They prefer the culture and values of the European Union without worrying that the EU's progressive utopian promises have been wrecked by open borders, economically stultifying regulations, and unapologetic and anti-democratic efforts to curb free expression and local autonomy.

Often, such “citizen of the world” mentalities fuel shame over the origins and traditions of America. Transnational organizations and accords on climate, criminal justice and human rights are seen as superior to their American counterparts.

A new progressive iconoclasm seeks to destroy statues, rename streets and buildings, and wipe away art that does not reflect more global values.

Does voting—the bedrock right of the democratic citizen—matter that much anymore? In California, tens of thousands of votes were “harvested” by paid campaign operatives. There was also abuse in state agencies in sending out voter registration forms to those who were not legally entitled to vote.

Lone activist federal judges frequently overturn legislation

By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Tribune News Service

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of *The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won*, from Basic Books. You can reach him by e-mailing authorvdh@gmail.com.



and referenda they find contrary to their own political take on legal theory—without worry that the votes of millions are canceled in a nanosecond.

Meanwhile, the proverbial “swamp” of the bureaucratic, administrative and regulatory state is vast and unaccountable that a few clerks can harass entrepreneurs, issue edicts with the force of legislation that ruins lives, or indict, regulate or audit a targeted individual into legal bankruptcy.

In recent years, we have seen a cake maker, a video maker, and a national security adviser so hounded by federal bureaucrats that they either were nearly bankrupted, ended up in jail or were reduced to penury through legal costs.

We still have a Bill of Rights, but many of our constitutional protections are being rendered impotent. If a rural family cannot find ammunition at the local Walmart or gun store due to organized boycotts and threats to such establishments, then the constitutional right to bear arms is not always exercisable in a practical sense.

Brett Kavanaugh was nominated, audited and confirmed by the Senate as a Supreme Court justice. But if the New York Times and cable news can relentlessly charge without proof that nearly 40 years ago he was a teenage sexual pervert, then a distinguished judge can be rendered impotent without legal impeachment.

If a student cannot safely express opposition to abortion on demand, question the global warming narrative, or object to safe spaces, trigger warnings and race-based theme houses on campuses, does it matter that there is in theory still a First Amendment?

We are unwinding at both ends. Tribalism, the erosion of the middle class and de facto open borders are turning Americans into mere residents of a particular North American region between Mexico and Canada.

Yet even more dangerously, thanks to the fiats of unelected bureaucrats and officials, along with the social media lynch mobs who boycott, harass and shame us, our constitutional rights are now increasingly optional. They mostly hinge on whether we are judged worthy by an unelected, politically correct and morally righteous elite.

In theory, American citizenship remains the same; in reality, it is disappearing fast.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

No, don't listen to Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg needs to get a grip. The celebrity teen climate activist addressed the United Nations and excoriated the assembled worthies for coming "to us young people for hope. How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with

your empty words."

Someone may have stolen her childhood, but the guilty parties can't be found at Turtle Bay. A 16-year-old from Sweden, Thunberg thundered, "I should be back at school on the other side of the ocean," which would have been easy enough to achieve, beginning with not taking two weeks to sail across the Atlantic last month in a jet-travel-eschewing publicity stunt.

Greta Thunberg is the leading edge of a youth movement against climate change that is being promoted and celebrated by adults who find it useful for their own purposes.

Kids are powerful pawns. The catchphrase "for the children" has a seductive political appeal, while kids offer their adult supporters a handy two-step. The same people who say, "The world must heed this 16-year-old girl" will turn around and say to anyone who pushes back, "How dare you criticize a 16-year-old girl."

There's a reason that we don't look to teenagers for guidance on fraught issues of public policy: Kids have nothing interesting to say to us. They just repeat back what they've been told by adults, with less nuance and maturity.

Much of their climate advocacy boils down to the plaint that all parents know well: "I want it, and I want it now." As a National Geographic headline put it, "Kids' world climate strikes demand that warming stop, fast."

Behind the foot-stomping is the idea that a long-running global phenomenon can be quickly stopped, if only adults cared as much as the kids. This fails to account for such recalcitrant factors as costs and complexity, but when do children ever think of those? (And who can blame them? They're children.)

Instead, the youthful climate activists claim they've been sold

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



out by their elders. Greta Thunberg put it with her usual accusatory starkness at the U.N.: "You are failing us, but young people are starting to understand your betrayal."

This is laughable. By no global measure of social and economic well-being have we failed kids. According to HumanProgress.org, the global poverty rate fell from 28% in 1999 to 11% in 2013. Life expectancy increased from 63.2 years to 71.9 years from 1981 to 2015. The same benign trends hold for hunger, child labor, literacy and so on.

If climate change proves a significant challenge, today's youth will have more resources and technology to grapple with it than any other generation in the history of mankind.

Of course, the adults they listen to don't tell them any of this. Instead, they feed the kids a diet of apocalyptic warnings that children repeat back as if they were urgent insights. One speaker at the youth climate rally said we have just 18 months—yes, only until the beginning of 2021—to forestall irreversible environmental harms.

This is nuts, and it's the adult enablers who are ultimately responsible. As for the kids, they'll be all right. One day, they will grow up, even in a warming world.

Odes to Fleas: 200 Years Dead and 200 Alive

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



On a visit to the Tate Gallery in London, while attending graduate school summer 1980, I saw a miniature painting titled *The Ghost of a Flea* painted in 1819 by William Blake. Blake is one of the greatest English poets. He also did experimentation with engraving, printing, and color illustrations of his own work, notably Dante's classic *Divine Comedy*. He was asked by his friend John Varley to sketch paintings of "visionary heads" in Varley's dreams. Twenty-nine years later here on Tinian, I found my postcard with that Ghost of a Flea painting on it. It brought back memories of the painting and flea bites I now have from two stray dogs I have been feeding since Super Typhoon Yutu. The dogs are gone but the fleas are not. These sonnets honor the 200th anniversary of the painting and 200 living fleas. Fleas dead and alive were my muse. Some fleas are not amusing. I hope the sonnets are delights and not annoying bites.

Ode to the Ghost of a Flea

A parody of William Wordsworth's *Ode on Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood*, completed in 1815).

There was a time when human, cat, and dog
their hair, their skin, everyday common sight
to me did seem to be inviting me to alight
on their body and enjoy their taste in sun and fog.
It is not now as it was before. I fly where I may
ghost thru walls and windows by night and day
animals and people I have bitten I taste no more
yet my death is not just sleeping and forgetting.
As a ghost I still remember the blood of my host
and how my bites caused itching and sweating
of those flea annoyances I can proudly boast
my ghost lives on some two hundred years hence
Since William Blake in an 1819 miniature painted me
I gave up the ghost but remain the ghost of a flea.

Ode to the Ghost of Another Flea

*"I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high
o'er vale and hills..."*

—William Wordsworth, 1804

I flew around a ghostly flea quite proud
above hills, dales, trails and sandy beach
around hikers and summer vacation crowd
all tempting bites just within my reach.
Now like hot gas and stars that shine
cool light along the Milky Way
no warm flesh will ever be mine
on hills, trails or along the bay
Of these bodies filled with blood and life
I thirsted for a single tiny little bite
my plight a ghostly flea with strife
I see the skin but useless to alight
now thru present day and future fly
I miss my flea life that I can't deny.

Which is worse, letting someone down, or being let down?

Iwoke in the middle of the night to catch my breath because I had the dream again: It's the one where I have to explain to somebody why I've let them down.

I prefer the dreams where I'm about to be hit by a truck, attacked by dogs or trapped in an airless room, because in those dreams I might be terrified, but at least I don't feel guilty.

I have an overwhelming fear of letting people down—which, however, doesn't mean I haven't done it. As a graduate student in 1986, I agreed to contribute to an instructor's manual for a textbook. I put in hours of work but couldn't assemble my notes into the kind of coherent piece required by the editor, a senior professor in the department. I began scheduling my visits to campus when I knew he wouldn't be there.

I hid.

I started waking up with a sense of dread. Even though I'd promised myself the night before that I'd get it done, I knew I was going to fail that day, too. I tried not to think about it. And it became all I thought about.

I couldn't do it. I don't know why.

Only after the professor attached a polite but exasperated note to the office I shared with seven other graduate students was I forced to face my own cowardice. I didn't want him to force a public showdown.

Failure was familiar; I'd failed before and survived. What I really didn't want was to be exposed as a fraud.

As a kid who grew up with a depressed and dependent mom, the prospect of thinking of myself as unreliable, careless or dissembling was intolerable. It just wasn't who I was—except in this situation, at this time and about this task.

I didn't cry in his office, but I was shaking. I apologized and explained as clearly as I could how my inability to meet my contract wasn't because of a lack of authentic effort but because of some other nameless insufficiency.

"Why didn't you tell me weeks ago?" he asked. "I'll have to write it myself. I'm disappointed in you."

Neither of us mentioned the \$50 he'd paid me as an advance, but I left a check for him the next day. He never cashed it. All these years later, remembering the incident is still like walking on carpet tacks.

Being let down by other people—even when it's tough in the moment—is often less haunting than when we inflict the dam-

By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at the University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.



age, even if we've done it without intent.

Hara Estroff Marano, editor-at-large of *Psychology Today*, explains, "Letting someone else down stings doubly, because you also disappoint yourself as well as the other, and you have that visceral knowledge and experience. Being let down is no fun either, but you only feel your own pain."

Echoing this point is my friend Brett Shanaman's observation that "Letting someone else down is worse than being disappointed by somebody else, because it's within our control."

Angela Fellers' insightful perspective on her own reasons for believing that it's easier to be let down than to let others down—"My capacity to forgive others is larger than my capacity to forgive myself"—might sound unnervingly familiar.

Yet we shouldn't dismiss or diminish feelings that come with disappointment. They might not feel like walking on carpet tacks, but they can make you feel as if you need to tread carefully in the future. Such emotional letdowns force us to keep our guard up.

Not that we're bitter.

On my pal D.C. Stanfa's page are the following instructions: "When I die, I want to be lowered into the ground by all those people with whom I did group projects so that they can let me down just one more time."

I'm laughing because I have never once asked my students to break into teams; I'm not a fan.

But the older I get, the more I realize that life itself is a group project; we've all got a deadline. We have to forgive those who let us down the way we hope to be forgiven by those we've disappointed.

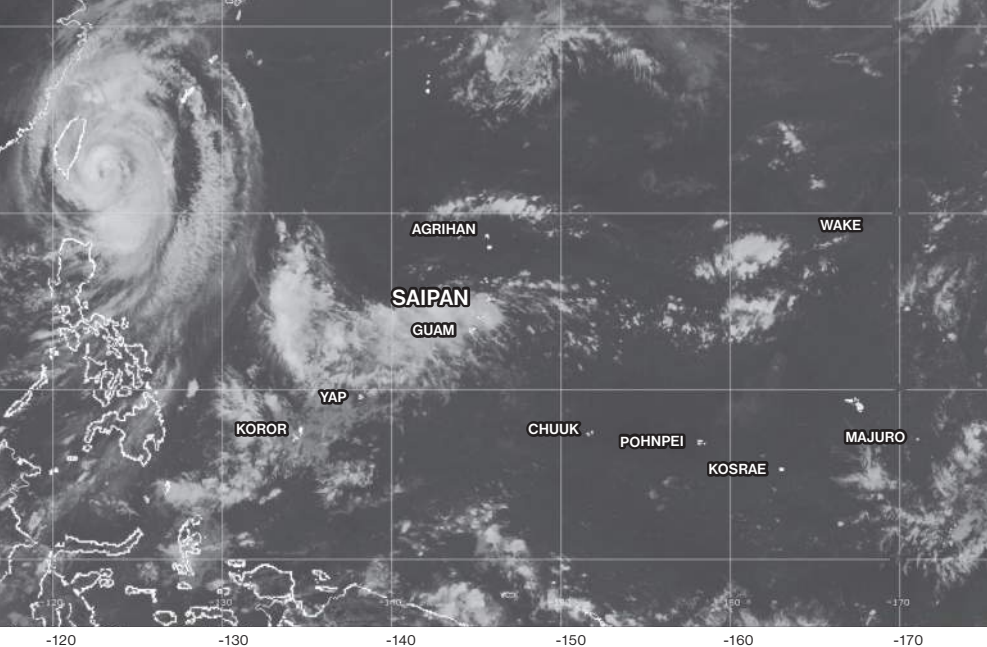
It's how to keep the nightmares away.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.		Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	87°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:12 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East winds, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across the Marianas. A surface trough southeast of Guam is slowly lifting northwestward toward the area. Buoys show seas of 3 to 4 feet across the area with seas around 5 feet northeast of Saipan in latest altimetry data.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	87° / 83°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 48°	
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 61°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 81°	
Honolulu	Sunny	87° / 77°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	77° / 59°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°	
Osaka	Thunderstorm	81° / 72°	
Paris	Rain	70° / 55°	
Busan	Thunderstorm	75° / 72°	
Rome	Showers	79° / 63°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	93° / 69°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 50°	
Seoul	Showers	79° / 68°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	85° / 72°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:16 AM	LOW TIDE	0.10	
9:24 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.05	
3:39 PM	LOW TIDE	0.58	
9:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.99	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:18 AM	8:18 PM	-
Wednesday	9:17 AM	9:07 PM	-
Thursday	10:16 AM	9:56 PM	-
Friday	11:13 AM	10:48 PM	-
Saturday	12:09 AM	11:40 PM	-

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
BC802	4:45pm	7:30pm	Sep 20 to 22	BC801	10:00am	2:40pm	Sep 20 to 22
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 3 Sep 29 to Oct 6	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	4, 7 Sep 29 to Oct 6
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

Business



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Speakers and panelists of the Visitor Industry Briefing on the Dengue Virus include from left, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero; Pilar Laguaña, president and CEO, Guam Visitors Bureau; W. Thane Hancock, MD, MPH, U.S. Center for Disease Control; Tom Nadeau, chief environmental public health officer, Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services; Dr. Susan Kaneshiro, chief public health officer, Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services; Vincent Perez, deputy director, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency; and Ike Peredo, director, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency. Not pictured is Charles Esteves, administrator, Office of Civil Defense. Photo courtesy of Guam Visitors Bureau.

Recent product recalls

Second of two parts

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued the following product recalls:

LOSARTAN POTASSIUM AND EZETIMIBE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BOTTLES

Hazard: Fails to meet child-resistant closure requirements. The prescription package is not child-resistant as required by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act, posing a poisoning risk if swallowed by children. Approximately 636,000 bottles have been sold but no injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves bottles of prescription medications Losartan Potassium and Ezetimibe from Sandoz with certain lot numbers found on their website. The recalled bottles have “Sandoz,” the name of the medication, dosage, and NDC on the front of the bottle labels and the lot number and expiration date on the side of the bottle labels. The bottles have been sold at pharmacies and clinics nationwide as a prescribed medicine from July 2018 through August 2019.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately secure the medications to keep them out of the sight and reach of children and contact Sandoz for a free replacement child resistant bottle cap. Contact Sandoz at 800-525-8747 from 8:30am to 5pm ET Monday to Friday or online at www.us.sandoz.com and click on “Patients and Customers” then “Product Safety Notices.”

KIRKLAND'S CHESTS OF DRAWERS

Hazard: The recalled chests are unstable if they are not anchored to the wall, posing serious tip-over and entrapment hazards that can result in death or injuries to children. The dressers do not comply with the performance requirements of the U.S. voluntary industry standard. No incidents or injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves

two chests of drawers made from MDF wood. One is mirrored with five drawers and has a black wash finish. It measures 35 inches tall and weighs about 47 pounds. The chest SKU number is 177373. The SKU number can be found on the Kirkland's price label that is attached to the back of the furniture hanging. The Camille chest has six drawers and a cream distressed finish. The chest measures 36 inches tall and weighs about 75 pounds. The chest SKU number is 145191. The SKU number can be found on the Kirkland's price label that is attached to the back of the furniture hang tag. These items were sold at Kirkland's from January 2016 through May 2019.

Remedy: Refund or repair. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled chests and place them in a room away from children. Consumers can return the chests to a Kirkland's store and receive a refund or contact Kirkland's toll-free at 877-541-4855 9am to 5pm ET Monday through Friday or by email at customer.care@kirklands.com. For complete recall information, visit www.kirklands.com and click on Chest Recall under Customer Service at the bottom of the home page.

HOME MERIDIAN THREE-DRAWER CHESTS

Hazard: The recalled chests are unstable if they are not anchored to the wall, posing serious tip-over and entrapment hazards that can result in death or injuries to children. The chests do not comply with the performance requirements of the U.S. voluntary industry standard. No incidents or injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves Mid-Century three-drawer accent chests in a brown finish (model DS-D146-002) or white finish (model DS-D146-005). The model number can be found on a label on the back of the recalled chests. The chests have three drawers with six copper-colored drawer pulls. The chests measure 32 inches high, 32 inches wide, 16 inches deep, and weigh 75 pounds. The chests were sold in furniture stores in Nebraska,

Kansas and Texas, and online at wayfair.com, amazon.com, bedbathandbeyond.com, and other online retailers from March 2017 through June 2019.

Remedy: Repair or refund. Consumers should immediately stop using any recalled chest that is not properly anchored to the wall and place it in an area that children cannot access. Contact Home Meridian to receive a free tip-over restraint kit mailed to the home or a prepaid shipping label to mail in the drawer slides for a full refund. For more information, contact Home Meridian at 800-819-4796 from 8am to 5pm ET Monday through Friday, or online at www.homemeridian.com and click on “Recall Information.”

RITE AID FOLDING PATIO CHAIRS

Hazard: The chair frame can bend and causes the user to fall, posing a risk of injury. The company has received four reports of chairs bending unexpectedly, including one report of a minor bruise and one laceration injury.

Description: This recall involves two folding, metal framed patio chairs with padded seats. The chairs were sold in tan and gray. The chairs measure about 24 inches long by 22 inches wide by 37 inches high. UPC numbers can be found on the chair packaging. The chairs were sold nationwide from February 2019 through June 2019.

Remedy: Refund. Contact Rite-Aid at 800-748-3243 from 8am to 8pm ET Monday through Friday or 9:30am to 6pm Saturday, or online at www.riteaid.com. Click on “Product Recalls” at the bottom of the page under Customer Care for more information.

Please contact the Office of the Attorney General Consumer Counsel, Michele Harris, at 670-237-7500 should you have any questions or concerns. You may also contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Information Hotline at 800-638-2772 from 8am to 5pm EST to get product safety and other agency information and to report unsafe products. (PR)

GVB hosts visitor industry briefing on dengue virus

TUMON, Guam—The Guam Visitors Bureau hosted the Visitor Industry Briefing on the Dengue Virus last Sept. 27 at The Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. More than 150 GVB members, industry stakeholders and government officials gathered to learn from subject matter experts about what they can do to minimize the spread of the virus and the possible effects on Guam's tourism industry.

Speakers and panelists included Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero; W. Thane Hancock, MD, MPH from the U.S. Center for Disease Control; Tom Nadeau, chief Environmental Public Health Officer and Dr. Susan Kaneshiro, chief Public Health Officer from the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS); Charles Esteves, administrator, Office of Civil Defense; and Ike Peredo, director, and chief Vincent Perez, deputy director, from the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency.

GVB president and CEO Pilar Laguaña noted in her remarks that the GVB team felt it was important to facilitate the sharing of information amongst industry partners. “We wanted to ensure they received accurate information from the experts. We thank our speakers for equipping us with the information we need to keep our residents and visitors safe.”

Laguaña also spoke about the bureau's message for industry stake-

holders and source markets: It is business as usual for Guam's visitor industry.

She said, “GVB is actively preparing for FY 2020 and is pressing forward to continue the momentum of record-breaking arrivals. We are communicating to our partners in the source markets that Guam remains a safe destination, and we are ready to receive travelers with our warmest Håfa Adai spirit.”

GVB has been working closely with Gov. Leon Guerrero and her administration and commends their proactive response to the situation.

Laguaña added, “We are confident that our island is doing everything possible to control the virus. Our community's support does make a difference.”

GVB tasked local businesses to rally behind the Government of Guam's efforts to eradicate the virus by cleaning up their properties to remove standing water and cut back vegetation where mosquitoes can breed. GVB also encouraged attendees to stay informed and establish protocols for how to address visitors' needs.

GVB continues to monitor international media and social channels for mentions about this issue. The bureau has received only a few mentions or inquiries at this time. GVB also noted that hotel and airline partners have not reported any group cancellations as a result of this issue.

Forever 21 fashion chain files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

NEW YORK (AP)—Low-price fashion chain Forever 21, a one-time hot destination for teen shoppers that fell victim to its own rapid expansion and changing consumer tastes, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The privately held company based in Los Angeles said Sunday it will close up to 178 stores. As of the bankruptcy filing, the company operated about 800 stores globally, including more than 500 stores in the U.S.

The company said it would focus on maximizing the value of its U.S. stores and shutter certain international locations. Forever 21 plans to close most of its locations in Asia and Europe but will continue operating in Mexico and Latin America.

“The decisions as to which domestic stores will be closing are ongoing, pending the outcome of continued conversations with landlords,” it said in the statement. “We do, however, expect a significant number of these stores will remain open and operate as usual, and we do not expect to exit any major markets in the U.S.”

Forever 21 joins Barneys New York and Diesel USA in a growing list of retailers seeking bankruptcy protection as they battle online competitors. Others like Payless ShoeSource and Charlotte Russe have shut down completely.

The numbers bear out the crisis facing traditional retailers. So far

this year, publicly traded U.S. retailers have announced they will close 8,558 stores and open 3,446, according to the global research firm CoreSight Research. That compares with 5,844 closures and 3,258 openings in all of 2018.

Coresight estimates the store closures could number 12,000 by the end of 2019.

Forever 21 was founded in 1984 and, along with other so-called fast fashion chains like H&M and Zara, rode a wave of popularity among young customers that took off in the mid-1990s.

Their popularity grew during the Great Recession, when shoppers sought fashion bargains.

But over the last year or so, fast fashion has fallen out of style. Young customers are losing interest in throw-away clothes and are more interested in buying eco-friendly products. They're also gravitating toward rental and online second-hand sites like Thredup, where they see clothes worn again instead of ending up in a landfill.

These trends are happening while discounters like Target have spruced up their fashion assortments, stealing away customers.

Forever 21 has also been more vulnerable than some other chains because of its large footprints in major malls, which are attracting fewer shoppers.

Nation

Trump allies push denials as Democrats promote impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said Sunday that he expects the whistleblower at the heart of impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump to testify “very soon.”

“All that needs to be done, at this point, is to make sure that the attorneys that represent the whistleblower get the clearances that they need to be able to accompany the whistleblower to testimony,” said Schiff, D-Calif., “and that we figure out the logistics to make sure that we protect the identity of the whistleblower.”

As Democrats and the director of national intelligence worked out key arrangements, Trump’s allies erupted in a surge of second-guessing and conspiracy theorizing across the Sunday talk shows, suggesting the White House strategy is unclear against the stiffest challenge to his presidency. One former adviser urged Trump to confront the crisis at hand and get past his fury over the probe of Russian election interference.

“I honestly believe this president has not gotten his pound of flesh yet from past grievances on the 2016 investigation,” said Tom Bossert, Trump’s former homeland security adviser. “If he continues to focus on that white whale,” Bossert added, “it’s going to bring him down.”

The Ukraine investigation produced what the Russian probe did not: formal House impeachment proceedings



Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani speaks at a rally supporting a regime change in Iran outside United Nations headquarters on the first day of the general debate at the U.N. General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, in New York.

but the logistics involving security had yet to be set. Lawyers for the whistleblower expressed concern about that individual’s safety, noting that some have offered a \$50,000 “bounty” for the whistleblower’s identity. They said they expect the situation to become even more dangerous for their client and any other whistleblowers, as Congress seeks to investigate this matter.

On a conference call later Sunday, Pelosi, who was traveling in Texas, urged Democrats to proceed “not with negative attitudes towards him, but a positive attitude towards our responsibility,” according to an aide on the call who requested anonymity to share the private conversation. She also urged the caucus to be “somber” and noted that polling on impeachment has changed “drastically.”

based on the president’s own words and actions.

The White House last week released a rough transcript of Trump’s July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as well as the whistleblower’s complaint alleging the U.S. president pressured his counterpart to investigate the family of Joe Biden, the former vice president who is seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge Trump’s reelection next year.

In a series of tweets Sunday night, Trump said he deserved to meet “my accuser” as well as whoever provided the whis-

tleblower with what the president called “largely incorrect” information. He also accused Democrats of “doing great harm to our Country” in an effort to destabilize the nation and the 2020 election.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son Hunter Biden in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration’s diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. There has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either of the Bidens.

The House forged ahead, with Schiff’s committee leading the investigation. Democrats are planning a rapid start to their push for impeachment, with hearings and depositions starting this week. Many

Democrats are pushing for a vote on articles of impeachment before the end of the year, mindful of the looming 2020 elections.

Schiff has said the whistleblower has agreed to testify,

ACROSS THE NATION

Official: Man jumps to his death at Grand Canyon Skywalk

GRAND CANYON WEST, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities are trying to locate the body of a man who climbed over a safety barrier at the Grand Canyon Skywalk and apparently jumped to his death. They say the 28-year-old visitor to the tourist spot on the Hualapai reservation outside Grand Canyon National Park jumped around 4:30 p.m. Saturday. A Grand Canyon West spokesman says a body recovery effort began Sunday morning. Skywalk opened in 2007. It’s a horseshoe-shaped glass walkway that juts about 70 feet over the canyon overlooking the Colorado River. The vertical drop from the Skywalk is between 500 feet and 800 feet (244 meters). A Chinese tourist fell to his death in March when he stumbled while trying to take a photo close to Skywalk.

Woman who livestreamed fatal California crash out on parole

LOS BANOS, Calif. (AP)—A California woman convicted of driving drunk while livestreaming the crash that killed her younger sister has been released on parole after serving 26 months in prison. Obdulia Sanchez was convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter, DUI and child endangerment. She was sentenced to six years and four months in prison. The Merced Sun Star reports Sanchez was released Sept. 21 after receiving credit for good behavior. She was 18 at the time of the crash two years ago. The car driven by Sanchez veered onto the shoulder of a road in Los Banos, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of San Francisco. Authorities say she overcorrected, causing the vehicle to swerve and overturn, ejecting her 14-year-old sister. Prosecutors say Sanchez was livestreaming on Instagram while driving, and the video shows her

taking her hands off the steering wheel.

Man charged in shooting death of US postal carrier

KINGSTREE, S.C. (AP)—A South Carolina man has been charged with murder in the slaying of a U.S. Postal Service carrier who was shot several times while working. News outlets report 22-year-old Trevor Raekwon Seward of Andrews was arrested Saturday. The Williamsburg County jail did not have documents Sunday to show whether Seward has an attorney. The sheriff’s office says 64-year-old Irene Pressley was killed Monday in Andrews. Her body was found in her work vehicle and several .223 shell casings were nearby. According to The State newspaper, the sheriff’s office said Seward’s fingerprints were found on mail at the crime scene. WCIV-TV reports that investigators believe Seward shot Pressley multiple times with a semi-automatic rifle, based on a witness statement claiming Seward was seen with that type of weapon before the shooting.

California resident hospitalized with more than 100 stings

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California resident has been hospitalized after being stung by bees more than 100 times. The Desert Sun reported Saturday that the person was transported to a hospital after being stung in Banning. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection says the person was stung around 12:25 p.m. Saturday in the city about 23 miles (37 kilometers) west of Palm Springs. Authorities say another person had a small number of stings and refused treatment by responders at the scene about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) north of Interstate 10. The second victim drove to the hospital. Neither of the victims was identified and their medical conditions were not known Saturday.

Transgender woman in Supreme Court case ‘happy being me’

By MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERNDALE, Michigan (AP)—Aimee Stephens lost her job at a suburban Detroit funeral home and she could lose her Supreme Court case over discrimination against transgender people. Amid her legal fight, her health is failing.

But seven years after Stephens thought seriously of suicide and six years after she announced that she would henceforth be known as Aimee instead of Anthony, she has something no one can take away.

“I’m happy being me,” she said in an interview with The Associated Press. “It’s taken a long time.”

The Supreme Court will hear Stephens’ case Oct. 8 over whether federal civil rights law that bars job discrimination on the basis of sex protects transgender people. Other arguments that day deal

with whether the same law covers sexual orientation.

The cases are the first involving LGBT rights since the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, the court’s gay-rights champion and decisive vote on those issues. They probably won’t be decided before spring, during the 2020 presidential campaign.

The 58-year-old Stephens plans to attend the arguments despite dialysis treatments three times a week to deal with kidney failure and breathing problems that require further treatment. She used a walker the day she spoke to AP at an LGBT support center in the Ferndale suburb north of Detroit.

“I felt what they did to me wasn’t right. In fact, it was downright wrong,” Stephens said, her North Carolina roots evident in her speech. “But I also realized it wasn’t just me, that there were others in the

world facing the same tune.”

On the other side of the case is the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes, whose owner worries that a ruling for Stephens also would prohibit sex-specific sleeping facilities in shelters, as well as showers, restrooms and locker rooms. Congress can change the law to make explicit protections for LGBT people if it wishes, owner Thomas Rost says in court papers.

More than half the states do not prohibit discrimination in employment because of gender identity or sexual orientation, despite the Supreme Court’s 2015 ruling that made same-sex marriage legal across the United States. In Michigan, the state’s civil rights commission last year decided to interpret existing state law to protect LGBT people from workplace bias. But that wouldn’t affect Stephens, who was fired in 2013.

Asia

HK's older protesters awed, humbled by zeal of youth

HONG KONG (AP)—Watching from a side road, Edmund Lau was struck with admiration and wonder as young protesters dressed head-to-toe in black whirled into action to deal with another volley of tear gas from Hong Kong riot police, kicking away the smoking canisters and rushing to aid the stricken who wept uncontrollably.

"Fabulous," the 45-year-old nurse said of the now well-oiled tactics deployed by the massed demonstrators, many of whom were 20 years his junior. "Very brave."

With fired-up young people in Hong Kong pulling out all the stops to spoil China's celebrations this week to mark 70 years of Communist Party rule, older generations in the former British colony that reverted to Chinese sovereignty

in 1997 are asking themselves: When we were their age, did we do enough to push for the full democracy and iron-clad liberties that legions of determined youngsters are now demanding?

Often, they answer their own question with a sheepish "No."

"We were shameful," Lau said. "From this generation, I've learned the meaning of fraternity and solidarity. Adorable."

Support, even if just from the sidelines, that older citizens of Hong Kong are displaying for the tens of thousands of young demonstrators on the protest movement's tear-gassed front lines is making an already complex problem for Hong Kong's leaders only more delicate and intractable.

A further toughening-up of the police response, already

widely decried as heavy-handed, to the months-long protests could turn bystanders into more active participants. And although there are many in Hong Kong who resent the disruption to lives and businesses, the sprinkling of gray hairs amid black-clad young protesters means that the demonstrations cannot convincingly be dismissed as simply misguided youthful folly.

"This generation has helped us with our political awakening," said Samuel Yip, a 54-year-old investment bank worker. "This political move-

ment has really given us a Hong Kong identity."

From his perch on an elevated side road, Yip watched in relative safety as young protesters brought usually busy business and tourist districts of central Hong Kong to a halt again Sunday, forming huge human chains along which, hand-to-hand, they passed water bottles, eye goggles, rolls of plastic film, gloves and umbrellas to comrades at the front, where the air stung with tear gas.

Another choking volley tipped Yip into a fury.

"This is worse than the triads," he said, likening the police force to Hong Kong's notorious criminal underworld. "With the triads, we pay protection money, but here they're using taxpayers' money to buy the weapons—tear gas, rubber bullets."

Many of the protesters are too young to have solid, or even any, memories of Hong Kong under British rule. But older residents remember the 1980s, when Britain and China were negotiating the terms of the 1997 handover, and the 1990s, when the last British

governor, Chris Patten, infuriated Beijing with a belated British push for fuller democracy and stronger guarantees for its civil liberties.

They also remember that there weren't similar sustained, massive street protests like those seen week-in, week-out in recent months, and now daily leading up to Tuesday, when the Chinese Communist Party will celebrate 70 years in power. In Hong Kong, protesters say they'll again be wearing black, in mourning this time, and their posters are calling for a "Day of Grief."

Military parade will be rare look at China's arms, ambitions

BEIJING (AP)—A parade Tuesday by China's secretive military will be a rare look at its rapidly developing arsenal, including possibly a nuclear-capable missile that could reach the United States in 30 minutes, as Beijing gets closer to matching Washington and other powers in weapons technology.

The Dongfeng 41 is one of a series of new weapons Chinese media say might be unveiled during the parade marking the ruling Communist Party's 70th anniversary in power. Others include a supersonic drone and a robot submarine.

The parade will highlight Beijing's ambition to enforce claims to Taiwan, the South China Sea and other disputed territories—and to challenge Washington as the region's dominant force.

The People's Liberation Army, the world's biggest military with 2 million men and women in uniform and the second-highest annual spending after the United States, also is working on fighter planes, the first Chinese-built aircraft carrier and nuclear-powered submarines.

"There are quite a lot of observers, including the U.S. military, who say, 'This is getting close to what we do,' and they are starting to worry," said Siemon Wezeman of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Tuesday's parade will include 15,000 troops, more

than 160 aircraft and 580 pieces of military equipment, according to Ministry of Defense spokesman Maj. Gen. Cai Zhijun.

Many new weapons "will be shown for the first time," Cai told reporters last week. Asked whether that would include the Dongfeng 41, Cai said, "Please wait and see."

The ability to project power is increasingly urgent for Chinese leaders who want to control shipping lanes and waters also claimed by Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines and other governments.

"China has developed nuclear, space, cyberspace and other capabilities that can reach potential adversaries across the globe," the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency said in a report in January.

Last year's spending on the PLA rose 5% to \$250 billion, or about 10 times its 1994 level, according to SIPRI. The United States, with a force of 1.3 million, was far ahead at \$650 billion, or more than 2½ times China's level.

Beijing is regarded, along with the United States, as a leader in drone aircraft, which it sells in the Middle East.

"In unpiloted aerial vehicles, China has made a lot of progress in recent years and has a vast array of systems under development," said Harry Boyd of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.



Protesters display opened palm with five fingers, signifying the five demands of protesters at a main street in Hong Kong, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019.

Director promises dank thrills in Thai cave boys rescue saga

BANGKOK (AP)—Their story gripped the world: determined divers racing against time and water to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach trapped for more than two weeks in a flooded cave deep inside a northern Thai mountain.

The ordeal in late June and early July 2018 had barely ended when filmmakers began their own race to get the nail-biting drama onto cinema screens. The first of those projects will premiere this weekend, when director Tom Waller's "The Cave" shows at the Busan Film Festival in South Korea.

The film was shot over three months earlier this year and has been in post-production since then. The 45-year-old Thai-born, British-raised filmmaker said the epic tale of the Wild Boars football team was a story he simply had to tell.

The boys and their coach

entered the Tham Luang cave complex after soccer practice and were quickly trapped inside by rising floodwater. Despite a massive search, the boys spent nine nights lost in the cave before they were spotted by an expert diver. It would take another eight days before they were all safe.

Waller was visiting his father in Ireland when he saw television news accounts of the drama.

"I thought this would be an amazing story to tell on screen," he said.

But putting the parts together after their dramatic rescue proved to be a challenge. Thailand's government, at the time led by a military junta, became very protective of the story, barring unauthorized access to the Wild Boars or their parents. Waller often feared his production might be shut down.

His good fortune was that

the events at the Tham Luang cave in Chiang Rai province had multiple angles and interesting characters. Especially compelling were the stories of the rescuers, particularly the expert divers who rallied from around the world. He decided to make a film "about the volunteer spirit of the rescue."

Other people proposed telling the story from the point of view of the boys, and Netflix nailed down those rights in a deal brokered by the Thai government.

"I took the view that this was going to be a story about the people we didn't know about, about the cave divers who came all the way from across the planet," Waller said. "They literally dropped everything to go and help, and I just felt that that was more of an exciting story to tell, to find out how these boys were brought out and what they did to get them out."

Waller even had more than a dozen key rescue personnel play themselves.

Waller said they were natural actors, blending in almost seamlessly with the professionals around them, and helped by the accuracy of the settings and the production's close attention to detail.

"What you are really doing is asking them to remember what they did and to show us what they were doing and what they were feeling like at the time," he said. "That was really very emotional for some of them because it was absolutely real."

Waller said his film is likely to have a visceral effect on some viewers, evoking a measure of claustrophobia.

"It's a sort of immersive experience with the sound of the environment, you know, the fact that is very dark and murky, that the water is not clear," he said.

World

Dark skies: UN meeting reveals a world in a really bad mood

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The planet is heating. Island nations are slipping away. A Pakistan-India nuclear war could be a “bloodbath.” Governments aren’t working together like they used to. Polarization is tearing us apart. Killing. Migration. Poverty. Corruption. Inequality. Sovereignty violations. Helplessness. Hopelessness.

“The problems of our times are extraordinary,” Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, president of the Maldives, an Indian Ocean island nation threatened by the rising waters of climate change, said at the U.N. General Assembly a few days ago.

There are those mornings when you come into work and everyone seems cranky. That’s how it felt at the United Nations this past week during the annual gathering of world leaders. Speech after gloomy speech by leaders from all corners of the planet pointed toward one bleaker-than-thou conclusion: Humanity clearly needs a spa day.

The United Nations was founded in an optimistic fervor after World War II’s devastation, on the notion that a cooperative body of countries could construct a brighter future by learning to get along. Though that hope remains a fundamental underpinning, the actual tenor these days seems to set a lower bar: Try to mitigate climate Armageddon, and prevent some of its



AP
In this May 17, 2019 file photo, Smog blankets the sky in Mexico City.

193 member nations’ diligent attempts to undermine and sometimes destroy each other.

So words like “existential threat” were as much a part of the leader-speech landscape this past week as the usual references to “this august body.”

“We are living in times when the magnitude and number of lasting crises is constantly increasing,” said Igor Dodon, Moldova’s president. “We have had enough wars. We don’t want new wars,” said Iraqi President Barham Salih, who would certainly

know. And from Roch Marc Christian Kabore, president of Burkina Faso, came this understatement: “International news has been marked by tension.”

Some of this is pure rhetoric. If you’re a nation of the world and you want something—money, troops, action, understanding—you must lay out a problem so you can propose the solution or, at least, persuade your compatriots that a solution is necessary.

So leaders and diplomats bring a lot of problems to the

U.N. this time of year, hoping to leverage a global stage—and a rare one, if you’re a smaller member of the community of nations.

Climate change was a central part of that. A U.N. decision to really place the topic front and center produced both a youth climate summit and a full-on event the day before leaders’ addresses started. Many nations answered the call to sound an alarm potent enough to get collectively noticed.

“The challenges of planet

erty, noting that the country’s middle class has shrunk.

Michel said Haiti needs to rebuild a new society and state as he called on the international community to back the goal of opposition leaders to oust Moïse.

“The will of the people is clear,” Michel said. “If he insists on remaining as president, he will lead the country into chaos.”

At a news conference Sunday, opposition leaders urged the dozens of supporters gathered around them to start blocking streets and to help them look for Moïse, whom they contend has gone into hiding.

Among those leading the call to find Moïse was opposition Sen. Youri Latortue, who has denied corruption allegations that U.S. officials made against him more than a decade ago and once led a party allied with Moïse’s Tet Kale faction.

“We’re going to search for him everywhere,” Latortue said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Narda likely to become tropical storm again off Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Tropical depression Narda is expected to regain tropical storm strength Monday after passing over the Mexican resort of Puerto Vallarta with heavy rain at the end of a day in which it caused some flooding in Zihuatanejo and other spots farther south along the shore. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm was on top of Puerto Vallarta late Sunday, with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph) after weakening from a tropical storm while moving overland. It was heading to the northwest at 21 mph (33 kph) and was predicted to begin picking up strength when it emerged over open water Monday and started hugging the coast while moving toward the Gulf of California over the next few days.

Yemen rebels claim capture of Saudi troops in ‘major attack’

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen’s rebels Sunday claimed they launched a major attack on the border of Saudi Arabia, releasing video purporting to show captive Saudi soldiers and equipment. The images of the attack released by the rebels, known as Houthis, show armored vehicles with stenciled Saudi markings, arms and ammunition the rebels claim they

and people are colliding with far-reaching consequences,” said Belize’s foreign minister, Wilfred Elrington.

Yet even given that context, it felt as if a lot more hopelessness than usual was kicking around. The U.N. secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, kicked it off Tuesday in opening the proceedings, painting a bleak picture of this micromoment in human history.

“We are living in a world of disquiet,” Guterres said.

“A great many people fear getting trampled, thwarted, left behind,” he said. “Machines take their jobs. Traffickers take their dignity. Demagogues take their rights. Warlords take their lives. Fossil fuels take their future.”

seized. The video also shows fighting in a mountainous area, with Houthi fighters apparently attacking Saudi troops in armored vehicles. It shows what appear to be corpses and wounded in Saudi military uniforms. Several troops identified themselves as Saudis. The kingdom did not immediately acknowledge the attack. A Saudi-led coalition has been battling the Houthis on behalf of an internationally recognized Yemeni government since 2015.

Mourners say goodbye to late French President Jacques Chirac

PARIS (AP)—Thousands of mourners paid tribute Sunday to former French President Jacques Chirac, who died at 86. Chirac was lying in state Sunday afternoon inside the Invalides monument in Paris, where France honors its heroes, after he died Thursday. People were holding a moment of silence in front of the casket draped in the French flag under a large, smiling picture of Chirac. A booklet prepared by Chirac’s family was handed to those who came to the Invalides. Titled “Chirac in his own words,” it includes some quotes evoking key moments of Chirac’s presidency, like when he defiantly opposed the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, saying: “War is always the worst of all solutions.” Chirac was also the first French president to acknowledge France’s role in the Holocaust in 1995.

Haiti braces for new protest, demands that leader resign

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Opposition leaders are calling for a nationwide push Monday to block streets and paralyze Haiti’s economy as they press for President Jovenel Moïse to give up power, and tens of thousands of their dedicated young supporters are expected to heed the call.

People stood in lines all day Sunday under a brutal sun to get water, gasoline and other basic supplies before the next round of protests that many worried would turn more violent than a demonstration Friday during which several homes and businesses were burned as police fired tear gas at protesters.

Several people have died in the past three weeks amid the political clashes.

“I have a feeling that the country is going to change,” said Yves Bon Anée, a mason standing next to eight empty plastic gallons that he would fill with gasoline at \$2 a gallon for friends, family and himself. He planned to resell his

portion to make some money because he hasn’t been able to find work in weeks amid Haiti’s crisis.

“My kids are suffering,” he said of his three young boys.

Opposition leaders and supporters say they are angry about public corruption, spiraling inflation and a dwindling supply of gasoline that has forced many gas stations in the capital to close as suppliers demand the cash-strapped government pay them more than \$100 million owed.

Protesters also are demanding a more in-depth investigation into allegations that top officials in the previous government misused billions of dollars in public funds that were proceeds from a Venezuela subsidized oil plan meant for urgent social programs.

Moïse, who took office in 2017 following an election redo, has said he will not step down despite the unrest and instead called for calm, unity and dialogue during an address televised at 2 a.m. Wednesday.

It was a rare appearance for the president since the new wave of protests began about three weeks ago.

Laurent Dubois, a Haiti expert and professor at Duke University, said he believes the country will face an increasing impasse unless the parties find a way to reach some kind of resolution.

“There’s a lot of fear, a lot of anxiety ... that things are going in a direction in Haiti that we haven’t seen in a while,” he said. “It seems like we’re going into some kind of new phase in Haitian history, but what it holds will be difficult to predict.”

Opposition leaders demanding Moïse’s resignation say they envision a transitional government after the chief justice of Haiti’s Supreme Court takes over as dictated by law if a president resigns.

André Michel, an attorney and professor of human rights, said Haiti’s current political system has generated misery, underdevelopment and corruption that have led to pov-

Focus

Juche rules North Korean propaganda, but what does it mean?

By **FOSTER KLUG**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—It's just a single word, but it's hard to miss in North Korea. It's splashed across countless propaganda signs, seeded through dozens of state media reports, at the beating heart of emotional pop songs and on the lips of the earnest guides who show off the grand monuments built in its honor.

The word is Juche (pronounced ju-chay), and while it's technically a political ideology, it can seem more like a religion in its ability to inspire devotion among North Koreans and its ubiquity as a symbol of state power. Though the usual English translation is "self-reliance," the concept flummoxes many outsiders.

Pyongyang uses the term liberally, including in previous years at the United Nations, where a North Korean official will speak Monday at the annual General Assembly. The nation calls nuclear bombs the "treasured sword" of Juche. Newly unveiled weapons fire "Juche shells." The August test of a new rocket launcher heralded the "rapid development of the Juche-oriented defense industry."

At a Pyongyang karaoke parlor, visitors can choose to belt out at least two Juche-related titles: "Juche Iron Is the Best" and "The Way of Juche Is the Way of Korea."

Juche is even used to count the passing years: This year is Juche 108, because it's been 108 years since national founder Kim Il Sung was born.

Though it's been around for decades, some observers believe Juche has been em-

braced in recent years with renewed vigor by leader Kim Jong Un, the third generation of his family to rule North Korea, as he steps out with growing confidence onto the world stage for a series of high-stakes summits over his nuclear weapons program and the international sanctions crippling his economy.

North Korea has now officially "enshrined 'self-reliance and self-development'" as the new ideological theme of the Kim Jong Un era, taking the place of his father Kim Jong Il's military-first policies, said Joshua Pollack, a North Korea expert at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and a close reader of its propaganda.

"The essence of it is that independent progress in science and technology is supposed to resolve national defense problems and economic problems alike," he said.

Some critics call Juche a successful, but vaguely defined, piece of propaganda that allows North Korea to energize its citizens with a nationalistic rallying cry amid a barrage of sanctions while also dodging responsibility over claims of economic mismanagement. For calamity after calamity—the collapse of the Soviet Union, the North's major aid backer, in the 1990s; a devastating famine that same decade; relentless economic sanctions—there is always an answer and a solace: Juche.

Despite the slogan, the country is heavily reliant on outside aid. South Korea, for example, has spent about \$5.8 billion on North Korea aid and economic projects through a



In this Sept. 12, 2019, photo, Kim Chang Kyong, Juche expert who is also the head of North Korean Social Scientists Association, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Pyongyang, North Korea.

government fund established in 1991 to promote inter-Korean relations, according to the South's state-run Export-Import Bank of Korea, which operates the fund.

"The 'self-reliance' claims of Juche notwithstanding, North Korea has long survived on the largesse of the international community," Stephan Haggard, a North Korea expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, has written.

Kim Jong Un has made the development of nuclear bombs and the struggling economy twin priorities of his rule, and repeated references to Juche run through the propaganda centered on both efforts. There's a debate, however, among outsiders on what, exactly, the term means under Kim's rule—and why it's important.

North Koreans, by contrast, harbor little doubt.

"The essence of the Juche idea is that man is the master of his own destiny," Kim

Chang Kyong, department head at the North's Social Scientists Association and an expert in Juche, said in an interview in Pyongyang.

Understanding his country, he said, is impossible without understanding Juche because "all the achievements of the country are linked to the idea, which forms the guidelines of the party and state."

At the 170-meter (560-foot)-tall Tower of Juche Idea, a soaring testament to the concept built in 1982 for Kim Il Sung's 70th birthday, guide Choe Hye Ok has a ready definition at hand: "If one believes in the local people, and relies on them, one will get the universe. This is exactly the meaning of Juche."

For many outsiders, the more it is studied, the more the word can seem less, not more, defined.

Bruce Cumings, a leading scholar on North Korea, has written, "The closer one gets to (Juche's) meaning, the more

it slips away." Asked about Juche's meaning, Pollack said: "Long story. Hotly contested." "There is some confusion here about Juche. We tend to render it as 'self-reliance,' but the North Koreans never do," he said. "They just spell it out as Juche, as if to indicate it's untranslatable." Kim of the Social Scientists Association linked Juche to Kim Jong Un's ambitious construction of new skyscraper apartments, which has continued in recent years despite strengthened sanctions. "It is the might of Juche," the academic said. "Even if someone does not help us, we will build by ourselves."

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Kim Il Sung is credited with constructing Juche while leading Korean guerrillas in the fight against Japanese colonizing forces, while Kim Jong Il is said to have systemized the concept.

Starting in the 1970s, Juche was presented as "the highest and most up-to-date brand of progressive ideology. It justified the superiority of the North Korean leadership," Andrei Lankov, a North Korea expert at Kookmin University in Seoul, has written.

North Korean state media claim Juche followers world-

wide and point to their interest as evidence of Juche's power. It's unclear how many there really are, but one devotee, Dermot Hudson, the chairman of the Juche Idea Study Group of England, said that outsiders misunderstand Juche because of prejudice and a failure to properly study the concept.

Hudson is a British writer who says he became interested in Juche in the 1980s as a young communist disillusioned with the Soviet Union. He said in an email that North Koreans embrace the ideology "because it guarantees independence and guides them in building a new socialist society in which everyone can have a better life."

As he works to explain Juche, Kim, the North Korean academic, compares it to another uniquely Korean word—kimchi, the Korean staple of fermented spicy vegetables. "Kimchi was created in our country. But for us it is just kimchi. Nobody uses another word to describe kimchi," Kim said.

"There is no way to directly translate it into English. I can only translate Juche as Juche," he said. At the end of an hour-long discussion of the word, he adds, "It would take days to explain the Juche idea."

AP

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

All the comforts of home, and big as a house



TNS
The 2020 Toyota Land Cruiser.

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Intrigued by the recent explosion of interest in vintage SUVs, with prices surging on 1960s and 1970s Ford Broncos, Chevy Blazers, Jeep CJs and Land Rovers, I asked someone at Toyota, “Do you still make a Land Cruiser?”

So overshadowed in recent years by the massively popular Range Rovers, which now could replace the Mercedes-Benz as the cliché “California Chevy,” this venerable veteran has slipped a bit below the radar. As sport utility vehicle sales climbed, Land Cruiser sales stagnated. The total number of these Toyotas sold in the U.S. dropped from an impressive 15,000 units in 2000 to a sorry 3,219 in 2018.

Toyota does, in fact, still make the Land Cruiser. With 2020 models arriving shortly in dealerships, I decided to borrow one for a couple of weeks to see if the legendary road warrior still lived up to its legend.

The vehicle has a colorful history, stretching back to World War II, when the Japanese army captured an American Jeep in the Philippines and asked Toyota to copy it. After the war, the U.S. Army asked Toyota to build more of them for service in the Korean War.

In 1957, the FJ40 version — which still looked a lot like an Army brat — became the first vehicle Toyota offered in the U.S.

Over time, the Land Cruiser looked less and less like a Jeep and more and more like an English Land Rover. Sales were steady, totaling more than 6 million units through 2018.

The early models were rough and ready, outfitted for

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Toyota Land Cruiser

- **Times’ take:** Venerable carry-all carries on
- **Highs:** Still handsome and capable as ever
- **Lows:** Overfed, overpriced and very thirsty
- **Vehicle type:** Four-door, eight-passenger SUV
- **Base price:** \$86,060
- **Price as tested:** \$88,280
- **Powertrain:** 5.7-liter V-8 gasoline engine
- **Transmission:** Eight-speed automatic, four-wheel drive
- **Horsepower:** 381
- **Torque:** 401 pound-feet
- **Estimated fuel economy rating:** 13 miles per gallon city / 18 highway / 15 combined

service in difficult off-road locations. Perfect for camping or hunting, built to bear multiple guests and bales of equipment, the early models were long on capability and short on comfort.

Not anymore.

The modern Cruiser, including the current model, is a big, lumbering luxury SUV — almost 7 feet tall, almost 7 feet wide, a full 16 feet long and weighing just under 3 tons. It offers generous space, good visibility and all the comforts of home. The perch is high, sitting on 18-inch wheels that buy 8.9 inches of ground clearance and 27 inches of “fording depth.” The suspension is soft, the ride is quiet and the road feels far, far away.

For some, this will be a plus. For others, a minus.

On the freeway, skipping along at the maximum speed limit, I was pleased by the silence and the slushy steering.

But on city streets, and much more so on unpaved roads, I felt disconnected from the surface over which I was traveling, driving without much feel and without much feedback from the tires.

Toyota loads its Land Cruiser with substantial bells, whistles, safety technology and off-road tools. Standard on the 2020 model — whose basics haven’t changed from 2019 — are adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, pedestrian detection, blind spot monitoring, automatic high beams and rain-sensing windshield wipers — plus trailer-sway control, because this Cruiser is a toy hauler, too, with 8,100 pounds of towing capacity.

Standard niceties include heated and ventilated front seats, climate control for the rear seats, leather interior, a “cooler box” for chilling snacks and beverages in the center console, and a seat-back entertainment system featuring wireless headphones for the back-seat passengers.

Off-road accouterments include various four-wheel-drive settings, a handy “crawl” feature, which will do all the gas and brake pedal work in tricky slow-speed situations, and cameras that allow the driver to inspect the front, side and rear landscape (without leaving the cockpit) when the footing seems questionable.

Also standard is a full-size spare tire, slung under the rear of the vehicle — essential for any serious off-road exploring.

All in, that’s how Toyota justifies charging \$86,000 base for one of these bad boys. At that price, it’s parallel with the fancier Range Rovers from England — and a far cry from the rugged Jeep-like jalopies that made the Cruiser’s

reputation.

Hoping to put the vehicle to more than a week-around-town test, I took a trip into the Angeles National Forest for an overnight camp-out. Since we were only two campers, we didn’t require more than two of the Cruiser’s seven available seats, or use much of the 81.7 cubic feet of storage space available when the rear seats are folded flat.

But we did use the off-road capabilities. When we arrived at the first campsite, after three miles of rough dirt road, we found too many other campers for our taste. Seeking solitude, we pressed on, and did another three miles of much rougher road. We drove where many SUVs would fear to tread, and had the next campsite all to ourselves.

The big Cruiser is offered with only one powertrain in the U.S. It’s a 5.7-liter V-8, connected to an eight-speed automatic transmission that makes 381 horsepower and a potent 401 pound-feet of torque.

To manage that power off the pavement, Toyota loads the Cruiser with full-time all-wheel drive, a locking differential, a hill start assist and very impressive suspension.

That gave us all the muscle we needed to rock-crawl our way comfortably into camp. But it came at a price. Around town, this guzzler gets only 13 miles to the gallon. If Toyota can sell a Tacoma pickup truck that gets 18 miles to the gallon — still woefully low — is 13 really the best it can do with a Land Cruiser?

In fairness to Toyota and those falling sales figures, this is a specialty vehicle. As the Cruiser has grown older, it has gotten bigger and become

even more of a niche vehicle. Indeed, unless the owner has a family, and needs more than five seats, and needs massive cargo capacity and off-road ruggedness, what’s it for?

Don’t put off fixing cooling system leak

UNDER THE HOOD

By BRAD BERGHOLDT

Tribune News Service



Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Q : I’ve noticed some spots on the driveway beneath my car that I believe are antifreeze (orange). I have an intense schedule right now that will make it difficult to have the car serviced. Is it acceptable to add a container of stop-leak to fix the problem?

A: Melissa, I have doubts this will help, and the consequences of possibly overheating the engine are ugly. Before driving further, can you please check or get the coolant level checked, and top off as necessary? Removing the radiator or expansion tank cap is absolutely dangerous unless the engine is cold, as the warm/hot coolant will be under pressure and can cause serious burns if it suddenly escapes!

If coolant is needed to bring the radiator and/or expansion tank or overflow bottle to the correct level, tap water will do for a quick fix, until the system is inspected and repaired (coolant will likely be renewed upon repair). Even if the leakage rate is slight (a few drips here and there) I’d seek service as soon as possible!

There are many reasons a cooling system may leak. Hoses can develop cracks or splits, a hose clamp may be loose or improperly seated, a gasket between mating engine components may be failing, the radiator or heater core may be leaking, or the water pump seal may be leaking. Stop leak products are sketchy at best, and would likely only be helpful in the case of a tiny radiator or heater core leak, and the fix often doesn’t last very long. I’d hesitate also adding anything that could possibly contribute to passage clogging.

It’s impossible to tell you what to expect for a repair. A leaky hose would be your best-case scenario; a leaking heater core or corroded engine component (occurs due to lack of cooling system service/coolant replacement) would likely be the worst.

Promise me you’ll move on this as soon as possible. The consequences of an overheated engine can be major and unpredictable.

Q: I’m trying to teach my daughter, a new driver, the best ways to drive efficiently so as to produce the least emissions. Do you have suggestions?

A: Reducing emissions and maximizing fuel economy go hand in hand. Maintaining correct tire pressure, performing appropriate vehicle maintenance and practicing efficient driving habits can go a long way to improve operating efficiency. Today’s cars and trucks are pretty good about letting you know of performance faults via the On-board Diagnostics II system’s check engine/service engine soon light. Virtually all faults or conditions that might result in increased exhaust emissions (and reduced engine efficiency as a side benefit) will result in an illuminated light and a stored diagnostic trouble code.

When it comes to driving habits, minimizing the quantity of cold starts via trip consolidation is huge, as emissions are much higher then. Anticipating slowdowns ahead and easing up early on the throttle, rather than braking, saves fuel. Brakes convert kinetic energy to heat, which is about as wasteful a process as one can get!

Life & Style

Saudi crown prince denies ordering journalist's murder

NEW YORK (AP)—Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in a television interview that he takes “full responsibility” for the grisly murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but denied allegations that he ordered it.

“This was a heinous crime,” Prince Mohammed, 34, told “60 Minutes” in an interview that aired Sunday. “But I take full responsibility as a leader in Saudi Arabia, especially since it was committed by individuals working for the Saudi government.”

Asked if he ordered the murder of Khashoggi, who had criticized him in columns for The Washington Post, Prince Mohammed replied: “Absolutely not.”

The slaying was “a mistake,” he said.

Khashoggi entered the Saudi consulate in Turkey on Oct. 2, 2018, to collect a document that he needed to marry his Turkish fiancée. Agents of the Saudi government killed Khashoggi inside the consulate and apparently dismembered his body, which has never been found. Saudi Arabia has charged 11 people in the slaying and put them on trial, which has been held in secret. As of yet, no one has been convicted.

A U.N. report asserted that Saudi Arabia bore responsi-



In this Sept. 18, 2019, file photo, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attends a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

bility for the killing and said Prince Mohammed's possible role in it should be investigated. In Washington, Congress has said it believes Prince Mohammed is “responsible for the murder.” Saudi Arabia has long insisted the crown prince had no involvement in an op-

eration that included agents who reported directly to him.

“Some think that I should know what 3 million people working for the Saudi government do daily,” the powerful heir told “60 Minutes.” “It's impossible that the 3 million would send their daily reports

to the leader or the second-highest person in the Saudi government.”

In an interview Thursday in New York, Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, told The Associated Press that responsibility for Khashoggi's slaying “was not limited to the perpetrators” and said she wanted Prince Mohammed to tell her: “Why was Jamal killed? Where is his body? What was the motive for this murder?”

Prince Mohammed also addressed the Sept. 14 missile and drone attack on Saudi oil facilities. While Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels claimed the assault, Saudi Arabia has said it was “unquestionably sponsored by Iran.”

“There is no strategic goal,” Prince Mohammed said of the attack. “Only a fool would attack 5% of global supplies. The only strategic goal is to prove that they are stupid and that is what they did.”

He urged “strong and firm action to deter Iran.”

'Abominable' No.1 with \$20.9M; Zellweger's 'Judy' sings out

NEW YORK (AP)—The DreamWorks animated adventure “Abominable” topped the box office with \$20.9 million in ticket sales over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, while the Renee Zellweger-led Judy Garland tale “Judy” got off to a strong start.

“Abominable,” the weekend's sole new wide release, is a co-production between Universal's DreamWorks and the Shanghai-based Pearl Studios. So the \$75 million-film's performance when it opens Tuesday in China will be vital to its worldwide success.

The film, written and directed by Jill Culton, is about a Shanghai teenager (Chloe Bennet) who discovers a lost yeti on the roof of her apartment building. She and a pair of friends traverse China to return the creature, whom they name “Everest,” home to the Himalayas. “Abominable” garnered positive reviews (80% on Rotten Tomatoes) and a warm reception from audiences (an A CinemaScore) eager for a family friendly option.

“Abominable” marks the seventh No. 1 film this year for Universal, or eight if you count “Downton Abbey,” released by the studio's specialty label, Focus Features. “Downton,” last

of about 34%, Universal has had a strong year with a varied slate (“Us,” “Hobbs & Shaw,” “Yesterday”). The studio accounts for all three of the year's No.1-debuting original releases: “Abominable,” “Us” and “Good Boys.”

“It's not going to be all superheroes all the time. That's not necessarily going to be everyone's cup of tea,” said Jim Orr, distribution chief for Universal. “When we have films like ‘Abominable,’ ‘Yesterday,’ ‘Good Boys,’ ‘Us,’ we're bringing a lot of different people into the theaters and that's good for everyone. That's good for the entire industry.”

It's been a good run for original films lately at the box office. The stripper drama “Hustlers,” from STX Entertainment, continued to hold strong with \$11.5 million in its third week, dropping just 32%. It's now made \$80.6 million altogether. “Hustlers” potentially got a boost by having its star—Jennifer Lopez—announced this week as next year's Super Bowl halftime act, along with Shakira.

1. “Abominable,” \$20.9 million (\$8.8 million international).
2. “Downton Abbey,” \$14.5 million (\$10 million international).
3. “Hustlers,” \$11.5 million (\$3 million international).
4. “It Chapter Two,” \$10.4 million (\$11 million international).
5. “Ad Astra,” \$10.1 million (\$18 million international).
6. “Rambo: Last Blood,” \$8.6 million (\$9.5 million international).
7. “Judy,” \$3.1 million.
8. “Good Boys,” \$2 million (\$1.5 million international).
9. “The Lion King,” \$1.6 million (\$3.7 million international).
10. “Angel Has Fallen,” \$1.5 million (\$1.5 million international).

week's top film, slid to second with \$14.5 million. The big-screen encore for the British series has already grossed \$107.1 million worldwide.

That gives Universal the most No.1 movies of any studio this year, passing Disney. Though Disney still commands an overwhelming market share

BBC faces backlash after censuring anchor for Trump remarks

LONDON (AP)—The BBC faced a backlash Friday after finding one of its presenters in breach of its editorial guidelines on impartiality for comments that were critical of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Journalists and celebrities were demanding that the BBC overturn its decision and expressed support for BBC Breakfast anchor Naga Munchetty, who was discussing Trump's remark that four female American lawmakers should return to the “broken and crime infested places from which they came.”

Co-anchor, Dan Walker, asked Munchetty for her opinion on the July 17 program,

and she responded: “Every time I have been told, as a woman of color, to go back to where I came from, that was embedded in racism I'm not accusing anyone of anything here, but you know what certain phrases mean.”

Questioned further by Walker, she said she was “absolutely furious a man in that position thinks it's OK to skirt the lines by using language like that.”

The BBC found that Munchetty had gone too far.

“She understandably feels strongly on this issue, and there was nothing wrong with her talking about her own experiences of racism,”

the BBC said in a statement. “However, our editorial guidelines do not allow for journalists to then give their opinions about the individual making the remarks or their motives for doing so—in this case President Trump—and it was for this reason that the complaint was partially upheld. Those judgments are for the audience to make.”

Across social media, there was disquiet over the broadcaster's decision. That sentiment was plainly put in a letter to the Guardian newspaper on Friday, in which some 40 locally prominent celebrities offered support to the presenter.

Sam Clemens' signature appears to be on Mark Twain Cave wall

A pair of Mark Twain enthusiasts who have searched for more than two decades say they've found what appears to be Samuel Clemens' signature from his youth scrawled on the wall of the Missouri cave he made famous in “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.”

In the mid-1800s, long before he took on the pen name Mark Twain, Clemens and his young pals romped around the cave near the Mississippi River on the outskirts of Hannibal.

As a group of Twain scholars toured what is now known as the Mark Twain Cave this summer, cave owner Linda Coleberd, self-proclaimed “Twainiac” Cindy Lovell and two others broke off in search

of the long-elusive signature, which was long believed to be among the thousands of names signed on the cave's limestone walls.

As Coleberd waved the group's lone flashlight around an otherwise dark area of the cave, Lovell says she happened to catch the beam of light as it shined on a signature: “Clemens,” written in pencil.

Lovell, former director of Hannibal's Mark Twain Museum who now works in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, couldn't contain her excitement.

“I started yelling, ‘Clemens! Clemens! I see Clemens!’” she recalled.

It wasn't until weeks later

that a high-resolution photo of the signature revealed “Sam” etched at the same place, indicating the signature was that of the famed author and not a relative.

The signature was discovered in July, but details weren't announced until this week, only after several Twain experts were able to study the signature and determine it was almost certainly real.

Clemens was born in Florida, Missouri, in 1835, but his family moved to Hannibal when he was 4. He stayed until he was 17, and the people and places he knew from the rough-hewn river town were fodder for his most famous works.

ONLINE MASTERCLASS

Anna Wintour

turns teacher

NEW YORK (AP)—Fashion is a world where the “next new thing” is constantly celebrated, where designers must keep reinventing themselves or risk falling into obscurity.

Atop that world, Anna Wintour remains a strikingly durable and influential presence. Her image never changes: the mid-length, brightly colored print dresses; the immaculate bobbed hair; the chunky necklaces; and of course the dark sunglasses, which make it harder for everyone to know what she’s thinking.

In her new online MasterClass on leadership, the Vogue editor in chief is revealing at least some of what she’s thinking.

She also describes her daily routine (she’s up by 5 a.m. and playing tennis before you’ve likely even smelled your morning coffee), opens a Vogue fashion meeting to the cameras (models were too young and thin in recent London shows, participants agree) and, in a segment sure to be catnip to many fashionistas, sits down with a Met Gala seating chart.

Wintour, who’s headed Vogue for more than three decades, also describes what she looks for in a job interview (she stresses that it’s not what you’re wearing), and in a meeting in her office (don’t “settle in” for a long chat, just saying).

Amid several weeks of nonstop fashion shows in New York and Europe, Wintour hopped on the phone from Paris this week to discuss the new online gig, her unabashed fandom for Broadway shows, her feelings about the latest trends on runways, and what advice she gives her 32-year-old daughter, Bee Shaffer (hint: it’s the other way around.)

This interview has been edited and condensed for length.

AP: You’re known as a fairly private, even mysterious person. What gave you the idea to do this MasterClass?

Wintour: Well, they came to me. But over the years I’ve been asked so many times by young designers and students for advice and counsel. So it seemed a great opportunity to use a MasterClass to really talk about my own career and particularly my experience with the CFDA Vogue Fashion Fund, where we’ve mentored so many young designers, just trying to be helpful to young people thinking about getting into journalism or fashion.

AP: It seems fashion is always about finding the next new thing. At least twice a year, designers have to come up with a new idea.

Wintour: Way more than that these days! You can go to a Fashion Week every week of the year. I just was on the phone being asked to go to Tokyo Fashion Week. It’s continuous today. It’s also an industry ... in a state of reappraisal and structure. I think that’s why I’ve enjoyed it for so long, because it is always about change, and that’s very inspiring to me and very invigorating, whether it’s finding a new designer or understanding how we can talk to audiences in all these different ways.

AP: How have you yourself remained such a constant?

Wintour: I think it’s super important to understand your own vision. If you want to make a comparison, look at a great designer: It’s very interesting to me to see Maria Grazia (Chiuri) at Dior, how she has re-established the codes of that house ... the way Karl Lagerfeld when he was alive always did at Chanel. He would recast it every season but there was always the jacket, always the bag, always the little black dress. He would just reimagine it and modernize it every season. (Also) I see sometimes when people become successful they stay within a comfort zone ... within quite a small world. What I’ve always tried to do is challenge myself by looking at art, going to the theater, traveling, walking in the streets, seeing what people are wearing and always bringing in young people to contradict me, tell me about new things and question my choices.

AP: Speaking of theater, you’re a big fan. What show have you enjoyed lately?

Wintour: Well, the day of the Victoria Beckham show (in London) I went to see a musical, “Six,” based on the six wives of Henry VIII. And it’s completely Spice Girls meets the #MeToo movement. Everyone else in the audience was 16 years old. It was so much fun. Also “Betrayal,” in New York (with Tom Hiddleston).

AP: What else has struck you at recent shows?

Wintour: I do feel there’s a sense of optimism and joy coming

through the strongest collections ... The other thing I see happening which I think came across most strongly in New York was that they’re very, very committed to diversity and inclusivity, and also re-examining what the fashion show is. They’re really looking at it as something that is very authentic and real and personal to each one of them. It’s not just girls walking down on a runway. It’s more about individuality and personality and who the designer is themselves. It seems that the fashion show itself is being rethought.

AP: At the Met Gala this year, we had a cheeseburger dress, a chandelier outfit, a strip tease on the carpet

Wintour (laughs): I felt there was a freedom and a sense of self-expression to the carpet that we don’t always see. Sometimes I feel like maybe the celebrities (are) being dressed too much by the designers they’re going with and it’s less about who THEY are. Whereas I felt (this) was so much a celebration of a community and a love of theater and a love of fashion. And (Lady) Gaga obviously set the tone with her amazing performance art piece.

AP: So it hasn’t become too costumey, as some say?

Wintour: I never think about that. I think of fashion as self-expression, and if everything is simple, elegant good taste, that doesn’t make for individuality and personality. I welcome all the crazy choices everybody makes and that to me is why what happens on the Met carpet is so different. With some of the Hollywood events, everyone is super careful and cautious. This is just about going for it and having a really good time.

AP: You give a lot of advice in this MasterClass. Is there any advice there that stems from some you’ve given to your own daughter?

Wintour: On the contrary, she’s the one that gives me advice! She’s a very determined young lady who’s always had a very clear vision of who she is and what she wants to do. She’s loved theater since she was 8 years old and now she’s working there. But I think it’s very important to understand that you don’t have to make up your mind at 18 or 22. It’s important to try different paths if you’re not sure ... it’s testing and trying lots of different things or working with different people and learning from different communities.

AP: If you were speaking to high school seniors, what careers would you suggest they consider?

Wintour: A career that can give you a voice, or (allow you) in some way to be to be helpful. I’ve been exceptionally lucky in that I find myself in a position where through what I do, I can have a voice and I can also be helpful to others.

AP
Anna Wintour at The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the “Camp: Notes on Fashion” exhibition in New York on May 6, 2019.



Spider-Man swings with Marvel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Spider-Man won't be leaving the Marvel Cinematic Universe anytime soon.

After a public fallout last month, Sony Pictures Entertainment and The Walt Disney Studios have found a way to work together. The studios said Friday that they would be teaming up once more to produce a third "Spider-Man"

film starring Tom Holland.

Disputes over the profit-sharing structure put Spidey's future in the MCU in doubt, much to the chagrin of many fans who had enjoyed seeing Spider-Man fighting alongside The Avengers.

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige said in a statement that he's thrilled that the character's journey in the

MCU is continuing. Producer Amy Pascal added that it has been a "winning partnership" for both studios.

The next Spidey film will hit theaters on July 16, 2021.

This image released by Columbia Pictures shows Tom Holland in a scene from "Spider-Man: Homecoming."



Prince Harry walks through Angola mine field

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A body armor-wearing Prince Harry on Friday followed in the footsteps of his late mother, Princess Diana, whose walk through an active mine field in Angola years ago helped to lead to a global ban on the deadly weapons.

The prince walked through a dusty mine field marked with skull-and-crossbones warning signs, and was visiting the spot where Diana was famously photographed on a similar walk during her own Africa visit in 1997. That field in Huambo is now a busy street. The southern African nation is now years past a grinding civil war and hopes to be land mine-

free by 2025, a goal of scores of countries around the world.

"Land mines are an unhealed scar of war," Harry said in the town of Dirico. "By clearing the land mines we can help this community find peace, and with peace comes opportunity." He said retracing his mother's path was "quite emotional."

Diana's visit is still very much discussed today in Huambo after people were struck by her warmth and willingness to acknowledge their country's devastating 27-year conflict, the Angola country director for mine-clearing organization The HALO Trust said.

"The main impact of Diana's walk in 1997 was the level of

global exposure it provided for land mines not only in Angola but the world," Ralph Legg said. She was a great advocate for a land mine ban, and "her willingness to visit an actual mine field, to place herself right in that context, provided great impetus and gave it a great boost."

The international ban on anti-personnel mines was signed that year and entered into force two years later. So far 164 countries have signed on. "More than 48 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed and 31 countries have been completely cleared of land mines," The HALO Trust said, while production of the weapons has almost dried up.



Britain's Prince Harry walks through a minefield in Dirico, Angola Friday Sept. 27, 2019, during a visit to see the work of landmine clearance charity the Halo Trust, on day five of the royal tour of Africa.

UK's Princess Beatrice engaged to real estate entrepreneur

LONDON (AP)—Prince Andrew and his former wife Sarah Ferguson have announced the engagement of their elder daughter, Princess Beatrice.

They said Thursday that Beatrice is engaged to Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, a real estate entrepreneur. The 31-year-old princess is a granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II.

Buckingham Palace says the

couple became engaged in Italy earlier this month. The wedding will take place in 2020.

"We are both so excited to be embarking on this life adventure together and can't wait to actually be married," the couple said.

Andrew and Sarah, who remain on very good terms despite their 1996 divorce, said in a statement they are "thrilled"

with the engagement.

"We send them every good wish for a wonderful family future," they said.

They said they are "the lucky parents of a wonderful daughter who has found her love and companion in a completely devoted friend and loyal young man."

Their younger daughter, Princess Eugenie, married Jack Brooksbank last year.

Metallica's James Hetfield enters rehab; tour dates canceled

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Metallica says its frontman James Hetfield has entered rehab, and the band is canceling its upcoming tour in Australia and New Zealand.

Three of the heavy metal band's members posted a statement on Twitter Friday announcing the decision and

apologizing to fans. The statement by drummer Lars Ulrich, guitarist Kirk Hammett and bassist Rob Trujillo says anyone who purchased tickets for the remaining show dates will receive automatic refunds.

The band had been scheduled to play five Australian cities from Oct. 17-29, followed

by four shows in New Zealand.

The statement says Hetfield has struggled with addiction for years and has re-entered a treatment program. The statement didn't elaborate, but the band's members said they appreciate fans' understanding and support of the 56-year-old Metallica co-founder.

Delaware school sorry for serving Roseanne anthem rendition

SEAFORD, Del. (AP)—"The Star-Spangled Banner" isn't an unusual feature of high school pregame festivities, but Roseanne Barr's screeching 1990s rendition surprised spectators at one Delaware volleyball game.

The News Journal of Wilmington reports the Seaford School District apolo-

gized Wednesday for the shock served at Seaford High School's Tuesday game against Milford High.

A letter from Superintendent David Perrington says pregame proceedings will be improved to spike future occurrences and the lapse is being investigated. Officials didn't immediately explain

how Barr's infamous version, performed before a San Diego Padres game, was set.

The letter says the district usually plays the national anthem before sports games as a way to honor the U.S. and its armed forces. It says the district will play the district-approved version in the future.

New owner has serial affairs with restaurant staff members

DEAR ABBY: I have been employed at a fine dining restaurant for 30 years. I love my job.

New owners bought it eight years ago, and the restaurant was booming. Our owner had an affair with another employee, and her schedule and treatment became insane. She didn't have to work as hard as the rest of us, treated everyone she worked with horribly and nothing was done about it. She and her family suddenly moved out of state a short while ago, and nothing was ever said about her again.

Recently, we found out that he's having an affair with another co-worker, and the entire staff is discouraged and angry. Both of our bosses, husband and wife, seem OK with these affairs and act like nothing is wrong! Morale is at an all-time low, and the anger and frustration are at an all-time high.

I'm trying to ride this out, but I'm very frustrated and just want to quit. My heart is heavy because I love my job and my customers. Do you have any suggestions?

CONFOUNDED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONFOUNDED: The new proprietors appear to have "an arrangement," which is why the wife is willing to look the other way while her husband carries on. If the new "girlfriend" is receiving the same favoritism in her work assignments that the last one enjoyed, you and the rest of

the staff have a right to complain about the unequal treatment. It might be most effective if you do it as a group.

Change jobs if the atmosphere isn't healthy for you, and some of your favorite customers may follow. That goes for every other person who works there. If enough of you quit, it may have a negative effect on the business.

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing a man for the last few months. His brother and my cousin have been dating for four years. He's 35, and I'm 23.

He is about to be divorced and has a record, but the last crime he committed was 10 years ago. If not for the fact that his brother is dating my cousin, I'd be much more skeptical. But my cousin has never had anything bad to say about him, and I'm confident if there were, she would tell me.

My family is adamantly against the relationship. They say he's too old for me, I should be more concerned about his criminal history, and no one they know has anything good to say about him. I'm conflicted about moving forward because I'm afraid of the rifts it would cause with my relatives.

I have had a lot of anxiety over this. I am also hurt that we weren't given the chance to reveal his past so he could be as transparent with my parents as he has been with me about it. Any advice?

ANXIOUS IN ARKANSAS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ANXIOUS: Because you have been seeing this man for several months, long enough to develop serious feelings for him, you should have talked to your parents about his history before they heard it from others. Because they love you, their feelings are understandable. If there is any hope of changing their minds, you and your boyfriend should speak to them together so he can address their concerns.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Robbers' foes

5 Sashimi fish

8 Outside (Pref.)

12 "Oops!"

13 Coifs

14 Actress Sorvino

15 Large shop

17 Twosome

18 Compass dir.

19 — Lingus

20 Ceases

21 Flightless bird

22 Utter

23 Ointments

26 Tony Stark's alter ego

30 Perched on

31 Gardner of Hollywood

32 Canal of song

33 TV genre

35 Comment to the audience

36 — -pah band

37 Stick with a kick

38 Shows age

41 Many millennia

42 Enjoy Vail

45 Portrayal

46 Feeling another's pain,

48 Slender woodwind

49 "— Blue?"

50 Appease fully

51 Leaves

52 Tic- — -toe

53 Dazzles

2 Resistance units

3 Francis, e.g.

4 HBO competitor

5 Farewell

6 60 minutes

7 Doctrine

8 Home, after the young-

9 "Arrive-derci!"

10 Journey

11 Rowboat needs

16 Runs (into)

20 — Paulo

21 Staffers

22 Madrid Mrs.

23 Soap unit

24 Chowd down

25 Mauna — climber

26 Wall

27 Hosp. scar

28 Succor

29 Formerly called

31 Cash dispenser

34 Cyclades island

35 Author Quindlen

37 Debate issue

38 Pirate's drink

39 Sci-fi prefix

40 Skin soother

41 Austen heroine

42 "Pygmalion" writer

43 Flying toy

44 Frozen desserts

46 Nosh

47 Airport screening org.

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brie Larson, 30; Zach Galifianakis, 50; Esai Morales, 57; Julie Andrews, 84.

Happy Birthday: An optimistic outlook will help you deal with people who are stuck in their ways. Offering change in an exciting manner will convince others to help you tidy up unfinished business so that progress can be made. You have plenty to look forward to if you are open to trying something new. Greater stamina and concentration will encourage success. Your numbers are 7, 15, 18, 26, 35, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need a break and a chance to get a different perspective on whatever situation you face. Whether dealing with a personal or work matter, you'll have to peel back the layers before you know what's best for you. Don't rush. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make up your mind. If you keep fluctuating back and forth, you'll confuse the people you want to come on board and help you get things done. Speak from the heart, be direct and offer incentives. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your effective way of dealing with people and situations will attract someone who is just as convincing as you. Don't underestimate who you are up against. Choose your words carefully, or you will be misinterpreted. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep moving forward. As long as you are doing something constructive and working toward a goal that will help you advance, you'll avoid situations that can lead you into battle with someone who doesn't see things the same way you do. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let your emotions take over when dealing with situations that are inconsistent or unpredictable. Listen attentively and offer suggestions, but don't make promises that will tie you in to something that doesn't really interest you. Concentrate on peace, love and tranquility. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A conversation will prompt you to rethink the way you live and the dynamics of a relationship with someone close to you. Base what you do on the benefits you receive as well as the influence you will have on others. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stand up, be vocal and make decisions that suit you best. Spend more time researching ideas and plans you've been contemplating. Don't feel pressured to act prematurely because someone else does. Take time to live in the moment and enjoy life. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make a change or a move for the right reason, not because your emotions are prompting you. There have to be benefits involved, not just a need for something different. Use your imagination, and you'll find better alternatives. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A helpful offer or willingness to work alongside people who share your sentiments will lead to exciting new beginnings. Surround yourself with people who are trustworthy and don't have a propensity to meddle or gossip. Romance is highlighted. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a moment to size up whatever situation you face before you take action. Fully understand the extent of your efforts and have a plan in mind that will help you get what you want and keep the peace. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your emotions in check and your mind on the possibilities. Negotiate on your own behalf, and make adjustments that will benefit you financially, physically or legally. A commitment to someone you love will bring you closer together. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep life simple, moderate and peaceful. Do what you can to help others, but don't put outsiders before family and your own personal needs. An investment, medical issue, vocational change or unexpected financial gain will change the way you do things. *****

Birthday Baby: You are articulate, conscientious and optimistic. You are trendy and humanitarian.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GOOD POSTURE

Solution: 12 letters

CHCTERTSLEEHWOL
SPIHLLATSERAMHI
WALKUEBENDLOIIF
RETNECCPGLTPLHT
SRGRHNONCIEUCI
ESOAAAIHONGGMIN
ECILCTENESOPBAG
NRATFSOTNJFLATE
KBIITIHUOARMRHS
CVHOTGPIBUOTAI
ESUIIWNOKRAHRC
NTSAATNECGEGINR
IORRSENLAAROGEE
PTDCSOENBTIYHSX
SSERTSSSTANDCSSSE

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Abs, Active, Backbone, Balance, Bend, Bones, Breathe, Center, Chair, Chest Out, Core, Exercise, Flat, Harness, Hips, Jog, Joints, Knees, Legs, Lifting, Low Heels, Lumbar, Lungs, Motion, Muscles, Neck, Organs, Position, Rest, Shifting, Spine, Stance, Stand, Step, Straighten Up, Stress, Stretch, Tai Chi, Tall, Thighs, Tone, Upwards, Walk, Wall, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Works

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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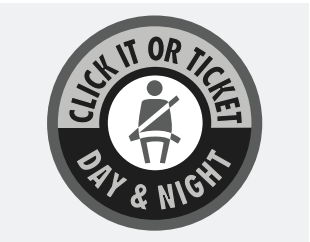
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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience;
- Must have knowledge in using measuring tools, such as scales and callipers

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 OK, Tun Kioshi Kileman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site —marianaslabocnet.

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Li Min Cui

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PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter)
Of The Petitioner)
For The Change of)
Name Of:)
R.C.S [Nov. 30,)
2013],)
By:)
Li Min Cui)

FCD-CN
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 19-0376

NOTICE OF
HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on Nov. 06, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 26th day of August, 2019

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: Silly season

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Saints stifle Cowboys without scoring a TD



**NEW OR-
LEANS (AP)—**
As Marcus
Williams came
down with an

interception to seal the Saints' triumph over previously unbeaten Dallas, injured quarterback Drew Brees ran to rookie C.J. Gardner-Johnson to offer a congratulatory hug and tap on the helmet for the defensive back's role in rushing Dak Prescott's errant desperation throw.

The Saints are surviving their record-setting QB's absence with effective defense and special teams, and making it clear that they won't relinquish their status as NFC contenders—even if that means finding ways to win without the high-powered offense that has largely defined them since coach Sean Payton and Brees joined forces in 2006.

Vonn Bell's forced fumble and two recoveries helped the Saints stifle a Dallas offense that had rolled through its first three games, and Wil Lutz kicked four field goals to lift New Orleans to a 12-10 victory over the Cowboys on Sunday night.

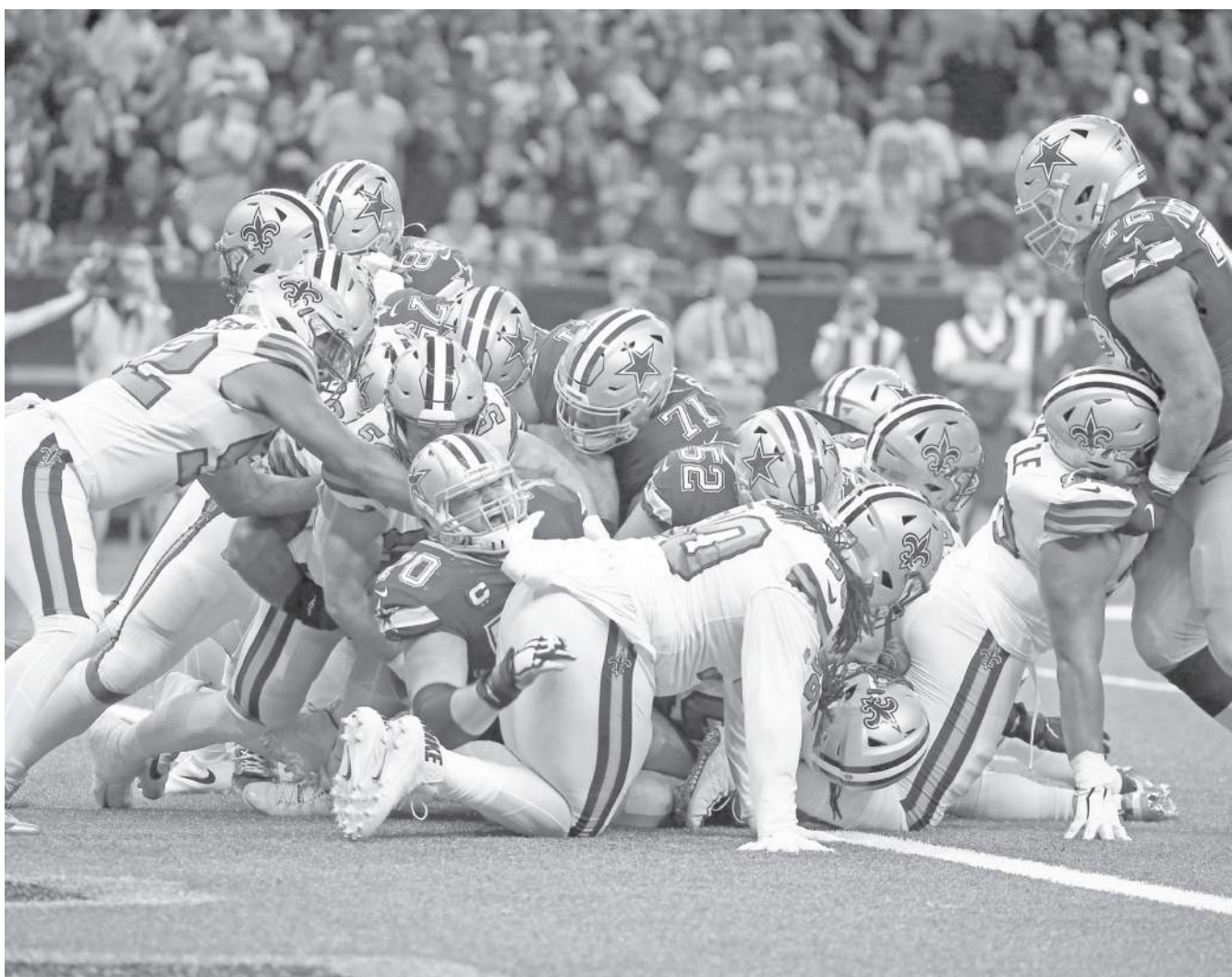
"It's sweet when you get a victory like that, with that type of team, when they have that type of mentality, when they come in and try to out physical you," said Saints middle linebacker Damario Davis, who the past two weeks has taken over Brees' role in giving hype speeches to teammates during pre-game warmups. "When you know it's going to be a dog fight, to be able to hit back and come out on top, that's the type of win that feels real good."

Dallas came in with the NFL's third-ranked running attack, averaging 179 yards, and had scored no fewer than 31 points in a game. But the Cowboys met much more resistance in the raucous Superdome, where the Saints' defensive front was bolstered by the return of tackle Sheldon Rankins from an Achilles tendon tear that had sidelined him since January.

Dallas managed just 45 yards on the ground.

"Hats off to the defense," said Saints quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who improved to 2-0 as starter in place of Brees, who wore a black wrap on his surgically repaired right thumb. "In this league we know how hard it is to win football games and no one said it had to be pretty."

Prescott gave Dallas (3-1) one last shot when he found Randall Cobb over the middle for 32 yards to the Cowboys 48 and spiked the ball with 2 seconds left. But his desperation heave was rushed by Gardner-Johnson's blitz and Williams



AP
Dallas Cowboys offensive guard Zack Martin (70) yells from the pile as running back Ezekiel Elliott, not pictured, crosses the goal line for a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019.

won in Indy for the first time since 2001.

With starting receivers T.Y. Hilton and Devin Funchess out with injuries, the Colts (2-2) gained 346 yards. The inability to sustain drives took a toll on Indy's defense.

Panthers 16, Texans 10

In Houston, Kyle Allen threw for 232 yards and the Panthers overcame his three fumbles with help from a big defensive play.

The Panthers (2-2) took a 13-10 lead with a 55-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter. The Texans (2-2) were driving with about four minutes left when Deshaun Watson was sacked by Vernon Butler, who caused a fumble recovered by Eric Reid at the Houston 33.

Browns 40, Ravens 25

In Baltimore, Baker Mayfield threw for 342 yards and a touchdown, Nick Chubb ran for a pivotal 88-yard score and the Browns earned a share of first place in the AFC North.

Chubb finished with 165 yards and three scores against the league's third-ranked rushing defense. Jarvis Landry had eight catches for 167 yards before leaving with a suspected concussion.

Titans 24, Falcons 10

In Atlanta, Marcus Mariota threw three first-half touchdown passes, two to A.J. Brown, and the Tennessee defense had three fourth-down stops.

Tennessee (2-2) used Mariota's big first half and the strong defense to snap a two-game losing streak. Derrick Henry, who ran for 100 yards, helped the Titans dominate the clock and hold the Falcons to only a field goal in the second half.

Chargers 30, Dolphins 10

In Miami, Philip Rivers threw for 310 yards and two scores to help the Chargers win over the Dolphins for the first time in 38 years.

Rivers completed 24 of 30 attempts with no interceptions and directed a 10½-minute drive in the third quarter that helped Los Angeles take control.

The Dolphins (0-4) held a lead for the first time this season, but it lasted only 3 minutes, 49 seconds.

snagged New Orleans' third forced turnover of the game.

Bridgewater went 23 of 30 for 193 yards. He was intercepted for the first time this season, albeit on an accurate pass that bounced off of Ted Ginn Jr.'s hands near midfield in the first quarter.

"I don't care about the numbers," Bridgewater said. "My job right now is just to help this team win football games."

This victory was the first of the Payton era in which New Orleans didn't score a touchdown and kept the Saints (3-1) atop the NFC South.

Chiefs 34, Lions 30

In Detroit, Darrel Williams ran for a go-ahead, 1-yard touchdown with 23 seconds left after Patrick Mahomes' run converted a fourth down, lifting the Kansas City Chiefs to a win over the Lions.

Kansas City started the winning drive on its 21. Mahomes converted a fourth-and-8 from his 34 with a 15-yard run to help him finish with a career-high 56 yards rushing. He completed enough passes to set up Williams for a short run to take the lead for good.

Detroit drove to the Kansas City 44 on the final drive and Matthew Stafford heaved two passes toward the end zone that were incomplete.

Jaguars 26, Broncos 24

In Denver, Leonard Fournette ran for a career-high 225 yards and Josh Lambo kicked a 33-yard field goal as time expired, sending Jacksonville past the

winless Broncos.

The Broncos (0-4) not only were victimized by a last-second field goal for the second time this season, but they blew a 14-point lead at home in a loss for the first time since 2006.

Gardner Minshew II drove the Jaguars, one of four AFC South teams who are 2-2, into field goal range after Joe Flacco's 8-yard TD throw to Courtland Sutton with 1:38 left gave Denver a 24-23 lead.

Buccaneers 55, Rams 40

In Los Angeles, Jameis Winston passed for 385 yards and threw two of his four touchdown passes to Chris Godwin, and Ndamukong Suh returned Jared Goff's fumble 37 yards for a touchdown with 1:06 to play in Tampa Bay's victory over the previously unbeaten Rams.

Godwin had career highs of 12 catches for 172 yards as the Buccaneers (2-2) jumped to an early 21-0 lead and then scored 24 points in a wild fourth quarter to complete the highest-scoring game in the franchise's 44-year history.

Patriots 16, Bills 10

In New York, Patriots linebacker Jamie Collins forced Buffalo's fourth turnover by intercepting backup Matt Barkley's pass with 1:27 remaining to seal the win.

J.C. Jackson had two interceptions and blocked a punt, which was returned 11 yards by Matthew Slater for a touchdown. Brandon Bolden scored on a 4-yard run in a defensive

slugfest between previously unbeaten AFC East rivals.

New England is off to its first 4-0 start since 2015, and fifth time during Bill Belichick's 20 seasons as coach.

Giants 24, Redskins 3

In New Jersey, Daniel Jones worked his magic again, Saquon Barkley's replacement Wayne Gallman scored two touchdowns, and Jabrill Peppers scored on a 32-yard interception return.

The Redskins' 0-4 start is their worst since losing their first five in 2001. The start also has seriously put coach Jay Gruden's job in jeopardy after five-plus season, a 35-49-1 record and one playoff berth (2015).

Jones (23 of 31 for 225 yards) has sparked the Giants (2-2) since replacing two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning as the starting quarterback. He rallied New York from an 18-point deficit in his first start against the Buccaneers last week and was solid early, leading New York to touchdown runs on its first two series.

Seahawks 27, Cardinals 10

In Glendale, Russell Wilson threw for 240 yards a touchdown, Jadeveon Clowney returned an interception for a touchdown and Seattle beat Arizona.

The Seahawks (3-1) scored two touchdowns by early in the second quarter, one on Clowney's spectacular 27-yard interception return and

another on a 9-yard pass from Wilson to tight end Will Dissly.

After that, Seattle controlled the game's pace with Chris Carson, who ran for 104 yards on 22 carries. The Seahawks also leaned on their defense, which forced Cardinals rookie quarterback Kyler Murray into another up-and-down day.

Bears 16, Vikings 6

In Chicago, Chase Daniel threw for 195 yards and a touchdown after Mitchell Trubisky got knocked out of the game with a left shoulder injury on the opening possession, and the Bears swarmed NFL rushing leader Dalvin Cook in a victory over Minnesota.

The defending NFC North champions avoided an 0-2 start at Soldier Field and another home loss to a division rival to go with the one they suffered against Green Bay in the NFL's 100th season opener. But they lost their quarterback soon after the opening kickoff.

Trubisky was scrambling when Danielle Hunter dragged him down. The quarterback's non-throwing arm got pinned awkwardly under his body as the ball popped out.

Raiders 31, Colts 24

In Indianapolis, Derek Carr led the Oakland Raiders to touchdowns on three of their first four possessions, and Erik Harris returned a late interception 30 yards for a score to seal the victory.

Oakland (2-2) snapped a two-game losing streak and

Cards beat Cubs in Maddon's finale, clinch NL Central



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—The St. Louis Cardinals

clinched the NL Central on the final day of the regular season, using Jack Flaherty's arm and Matt Carpenter's bat Sunday to win their first division title since 2015 with a 9-0 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

The Cubs lost on Joe Maddon's last day as their manager. It was announced before the game that he won't return next year.

Flaherty tossed seven impressive innings and Carpenter led a three-homer attack with a three-run drive to help St. Louis advance to the NL Division Series, starting Thursday at Atlanta.

The second-place Milwaukee Brewers will play at Washington in the NL wild-card game Tuesday night, with the winner going on to play Los Angeles in the NLDS.

Paul Goldschmidt and Dexter Fowler also homered for St. Louis (91-71).

Flaherty (11-8) allowed two hits, struck out six and walked one.

Chicago starter Derek Holland (2-5) took the loss.

Rockies 4, Brewers 3, 13 innings

In Denver, relegated to an NL wild-card spot, Milwaukee lost to Colorado when Jake Faria threw a wild pitch in the 13th inning that allowed the winning run to score.

The Brewers will play at Washington on Tuesday night in the wild-card game. The winner advances to take on the NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer for Milwaukee and Hernan Perez had a pinch-hit homer.

Rangers 6, Yankees 1

In Arlington, Lance Lynn struck out 10, getting his career-high 16th win as Texas closed out the 26th and final season at their ballpark with a win over the AL East champion New York.

After Aaron Judge's 27th homer in the third inning tied the game at 1-1, Lynn (16-11) retired his last 14 batters while pitching against his former team.

New York, which plays Minnesota in the Division Series starting Friday, went 103-59.

Red Sox 5, Orioles 4

In Boston, Eduardo Rodriguez missed out on a 20-win season when Boston's bullpen blew a late lead, but the Red Sox beat Baltimore on Mookie Betts' ninth-inning dash home.

Betts scored from first on a single by Rafael Devers with no outs.

Stevie Wilkerson chased Jackie Bradley Jr.'s fly ball to the edge of the visitors' bull-



AP
St. Louis Cardinals' Marcell Ozuna, left, celebrates with teammate Matt Carpenter after the latter hit a three-run home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019, in St. Louis.

Tampa Bay and Oakland.

Blue Jays 8, Rays 3

In Toronto, Blake Snell lost in a tuneup for a potential post-season outing, and Tampa Bay was beaten by the Blue Jays in its last game before the wild card playoff against the Oakland Athletics.

Tampa Bay finished 96-66, one win shy of the franchise record set the 2008 pennant-winning team that lost to Philadelphia in the World Series. The Rays headed to Oakland for Wednesday's matchup against the A's (97-65).

Mariners 3, Athletics 1

In Seattle, Kyle Seager hit a two-run homer in the first inning, promising prospect Kyle Lewis added an RBI single and the Mariners closed out the season with a win.

Oakland finished 97-65 for the second straight year and rested most of its regular starters ahead of Wednesday night's AL wild-card game at home against Tampa Bay.

White Sox 5, Tigers 3

In Chicago, Tim Anderson became the third White Sox player to win an American League batting title, finishing at .335 after going 0 for 2 in a season-ending win over Detroit.

Anderson joined Luke Appling (1936 and 1943) and Frank Thomas (1997) as batting champions for the White Sox.

Diamondbacks 1, Padres 0

In Phoenix, Taijuan Walker returned from Tommy John surgery on the final day of the regular season, Tim Lincecum beat out an infield grounder to drive home the winning run in the ninth inning and Arizona beat San Diego.

Lincecum bounced one deep into the hole at shortstop with two outs, and Luis Urias skipped a throw to first on what would have been a close play, allowing Christian Walker to score from third.

Royals 5, Twins 4

In Kansas City, Jorge Soler locked up the AL home run crown with his 48th homer, Brett Phillips drove a game-ending sacrifice fly in the ninth inning and the Royals beat Minnesota in manager Ned Yost's final game.

Yost finished 746-839 over 10 seasons leading Kansas City.

pen, leaped over the short wall and pulled back Bradley's would-be homer while nearly tumbling into the seats.

Dodgers 9, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Bruce Bochy bid an emotional farewell following 2 1/2 decades in what is certainly Hall of Fame managerial career, finishing with a 9-0 defeat to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles won its franchise-record 106th game, jumping to a 5-0 lead in the first that held up on Will Smith's two-run homer right after a bases-clearing, three-run double by Corey Seager.

Mets 7, Braves 6, 11 innings

In New York, Mike Soroka recovered from a shaky start in his playoff tuneup, but banged-

up Atlanta limped into October with a loss to New York.

New York's Dominic Smith hit a game-ending, three-run homer on his first competitive swing in more than two months.

Soroka was tagged for three runs and four hits in the first inning of the regular-season finale. J.D. Davis socked a two-run homer off the right-hander.

Reds 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Aristides Aquino hit his 19th home run, Tyler Mahle pitched five shutout innings to pick up his first win since May and Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh shortly after the Pirates fired manager Clint Hurdle.

Brian O'Grady connected for his second home run and Alex Blandino added a solo shot as Cincinnati finished 75-

87 under first-year manager David Bell.

Marlins 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Bryce Harper got two hits and a standing ovation to close out his first season with the Phillies, who finished finished at 81-81 after a loss to Miami.

Brad Miller hit a pair of homers for Philadelphia, which ended a run of six straight losing campaigns but fell well short of expectations.

Starlin Castro homered and doubled, and Sandy Alcantara pitched six solid innings for Miami.

Nationals 8, Indians 2

In Washington, the Nationals continued their surge into the playoffs by stretching their winning streak to a year-high

eight games.

Washington will host the NL wild-card game Tuesday night against the Milwaukee Brewers.

Catcher Kurt Suzuki hit his 17th homer, a two-run shot in the third inning.

Astros 8, Angels 5

In Anaheim, Gerrit Cole earned his career-high 20th win, added to his major league-leading strikeout total and finished the best ERA in the AL in Houston's win over Los Angeles.

Cole (20-5) posted his franchise-record 16th straight win as the Astros wound up with the top record in the majors at 107-55. They begin the playoffs Friday at home against the winner of the wild-card game between

MLB finishes with 6,776 homers, 11% above previous record

NEW YORK (AP)—Major league batters finished with 6,776 home runs, shattering the previous record of 6,105 set two years ago.

Dominic Smith hit the final long ball of the season, a three-run drive in the 11th inning Sunday off Atlanta's Grant Dayton that lifted the New York Mets over the NL East champion Braves 7-6.

Oakland's Steven Piscotty started the barrage on March 20 in Tokyo against Seattle's Marco Gonzales, the sixth batter of the season.

This year's total was 11% above the old record and 21% higher than last year's 5,585.

Minnesota hit three home runs Sunday to establish the

big league team record with 307, one more than the Yankees. The previous mark of 267 was set last year by New York. This year's Yankees became the first team with 14 players reaching double-digits in home runs.

"I don't think anybody will ever forget the 'Bomba Squad,'" first-year Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said.

Major League Baseball has asked for more scientific tests on baseballs, and Commissioner Rob Manfred expects to have results after the World Series.

Strikeouts set a record for the 12th consecutive season at 42,823, up 4% from 41,207 last year and 33% from 32,189 in 2007. A year after strikeouts

exceeded hits for the time, by 189 (41,018 hits), the gap grew to 783 (42,040 hits).

The big league batting average rose four percentage points .252, a year after dropping to its lowest level since 1972, the season before the American League adopted the designated hitter.

Tim Anderson became only the third Chicago White Sox player to win an AL batting title and injured Milwaukee star Christian Yelich wound up as the National League's first repeat champion in two decades.

Anderson went 0 for 2 Sunday and finished at .335, eight points ahead of the Yankees' DJ LeMahieu. Anderson joined

Luke Appling (1936, '43) and Frank Thomas ('97) as White Sox batting champions.

"It's such a huge accomplishment," said the 26-year-old Anderson, who hit .240 last year. "To think where I was when I first came here to where it is now. I just came in and continued to work. It's such an unbelievable moment for me."

Yelich wound up at .3292, just ahead of Arizona's Ketel Marte's .3286, as neither made it to the season's final weekend. Yelich's season ended when he broke his right kneecap by fouling a pitch of it on Sept. 10. Marte has not played since Sept. 17 due to lower back inflammation.

George could miss Clippers' season opener



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers might enter the season without fielding one of their two star signings.

Clippers forward Paul George told ESPN he expects to miss all of training camp and return around November after having offseason surgery on his left shoulder. The Clippers have not outlined a formal timetable on George's pending return. During the Clippers' media day Sunday, George also did not share his expectation about possibly missing the Clippers' season opener against the Los Angeles Lakers on Oct. 22.

Still, George suggested he will remain deliberate. Since George said he considers his health to be "pretty good," he still plans to participate in non-contact drills and "all the scripted stuff" once training camp begins Monday. George also plans to travel with the Clippers for their week-long preseason trip to Hawaii, which includes an exhibition against the Houston Rockets on Thursday in Honolulu.

Fortunately for the Clippers, they still have Kawhi Leonard. Though he missed a combined 22 games last season with the Toronto Raptors under a so-called "load management" program, it does not appear the Clippers will follow a similar regimen since Leonard is more than a year removed from playing only nine games in his final season with the San Antonio Spurs because of complications with a quadriceps injury.

"It's different this season," Leonard said. "Last year, I was going in with the injury I was dealing with the year before. It was lingering and we knew I had to be healthy throughout the season and making it into the playoffs. This year, I'm feeling good. I'm feeling way better than I was at the start of last season. But there is really no plan laid out yet to discuss with everyone."

Therefore, both Leonard and George sounded receptive about playing for Team USA next summer in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"Right now, I do want to play," Leonard said. "But right now, I'm taking one step at a time and right now that's getting the Clippers to the Finals."

Leonard and George are the latest stars, joining LeBron James, Anthony Davis, Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Damian Lillard and James Harden among others, to express interest in playing in the 2020 Games. Not that that should be surprising.



In this Feb. 1, 2019 file photo, the then Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George (13) shoots over the Miami Heat's Justise Winslow in the third quarter at the American Airlines Arena in Miami.

Team USA finished in seventh place in this summer's FIBA World Cup. A handful of stars skipped the games for reasons that included injuries, free agency or wanting to maximize offseason recovery, including James, Davis, Curry, Thompson, Lillard, Harden, George, Kevin Durant, Draymond Green, Bradley Beal, Eric Gordon, CJ McCollum, Andre Drummond, Kevin Love and Paul Millsap.

"When the time comes, I would love to be a part of the Olympics and represent but this comes first obviously and getting through this year and giving everything to this year," George said. "Hopefully by June, we're the last team standing. I'll deal with it at that point. It doesn't matter if we go all the way, as long as I'm healthy. As long as I'm healthy, I'm in. I want to be a part of that group."

George could not be part of the group that played in the 2014 FIBA World Championships. He buckled his right leg in an exhibition game in Las Vegas, which caused him to miss the entire tournament and all but the final eight games of the 2014-15 season with the Indiana Pacers.

Thankfully for the Clippers, George does not nurse as gruesome of an injury. The Clippers have become encouraged with George's progress during offseason workouts. And George has perspective on how to overcome a prolonged absence.

"I'm used to being in this rehab stage and knowing what it takes to get my body prepared," George said. "It's a long process. But with me going through it and having a drastic injury in my leg, I know what to expect. I know what pressure to put on myself and what pressure not to

put on myself as well. That comes with a lot of stress when you're coming from rehab. I'm just in a good place. I know what I need to do. I know what I'm capable of, and ultimately, I know when my body is ready."

Meanwhile, Leonard and George have already passed the chemistry test with the Los Angeles Clippers.

The two superstars have been quick to integrate themselves with their new team and the result is an easy, teasing camaraderie. Whether it's enough to advance the once beleaguered franchise past the second round of the playoffs for the first time—let alone win an NBA championship—remains to be seen.

But clearly these guys are already having fun.

There was a fishing trip and a paintball outing—yep, Patrick Beverley was so competitive he splattered his own

teammates—that made early impressions in a season the Clippers hope will be their most memorable yet.

"If we maintain that, we're going to get through anything," George said.

Leonard and George may be the biggest fish on the roster, but neither caught the largest when several of the Clippers took to the water. That honor belonged to a woman on the boat.

And what happened to their fish shown off on social media?

"Like anybody else would do," Leonard replied. "Have someone else fillet it, cook it, and eat it."

But he and George don't expect to do all the heavy lifting this season.

"Everybody on the same page," George said of the collective mindset, "and we go out as one."

Leonard led Toronto to its first NBA title last season, and he ticked off the characteristics of a championship team: high character, sacrifice and will to win.

"Go out there as one unit trying to accomplish that one goal," he said. "It's about enjoying the journey and not getting ahead of yourself. You also have to stay healthy as well."

Tiger cleared for full practice after knee surgery



CALIFORNIA—Just one month after undergoing surgery on his left knee,

Tiger Woods is getting back to the golf course.

Woods told Michael Strahan on "Good Morning America" this week that he's been cleared to resume "full practice" after his surgery, and already has half a round under his belt.

"I got the clearance last week to start full practice, and so I played nine holes the other day," Woods said on Good Morning America. "It's sore, yeah, but now I can start lifting and getting my muscle back and getting my weight up."

Woods underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee in August, shortly after his PGA Tour season came to an end. He withdrew from The Northern Trust after just one round due to an oblique strain, though came back for the BMW Championship—the second FedEx Cup Playoffs stop—a week later. Woods failed to qualify for the Tour Championship, however, the tournament he won in 2018.

He still plans to play at the Zozo Championship in Tokyo on Oct. 26, which should be his first event of the 2019-20 season. He will also compete in a skins game against Rory McIlroy, Jason Day and Hideki Matsuyama just days before the inaugural Tour event in Japan, too.

The 81-time Tour winner won once this season, picking up a major victory at The Masters in April. He had two other top 10 finishes, though, and failed to make the cut at both the PGA Championship and The Open Championship. He's just one win shy of tying Sam Snead's all-time record, and three major wins shy of Jack Nicklaus' record. Meanwhile, Cameron

Champ broke down in tears when it was over.

Playing while his grandfather fights cancer in nearby Sacramento, the 24-year-old Champ won the Safeway Open on Sunday for his second PGA Tour title. He made a 3-foot birdie putt on the par-5 18th hole for a one-stroke victory over Adam Hadwin at Silverado Resort.

Champ raised both arms then shared a long embrace with his caddie before breaking into tears as he hugged his father, Jeff, on the green. Champ's grandfather, Mack, is battling stomach cancer and is in hospice. Mack introduced Champ to golf at a young age.

"For me to do something like this, for me to win, and for him to be able to witness and watch on TV, I know he was probably amped up," Champ said. "For him to be able to see me make that putt on 18 on the 72nd hole, that will go down as the greatest moment ever in my career."

"It was just kind of meant to be. Everything fell into place."

Champ's second victory in 33 events didn't come without its moments, especially down the stretch.

Three strokes ahead entering the round, Champ had five birdies and overcame a bogey on No. 17—"Adrenaline," Champ said—to hold off Hadwin. Champ closed with a 3-under 69 to finish at 17-under 271.

Afterward, Champ was handed a cell phone by his father. On the other end was Mack.

"With everything going on with my family, with my grandpa, I wasn't sure if I was even going to play," Champ said. "I showed up Thursday and teed it up with no practice round, nothing. The whole week there was nothing else on my mind. It just kind of blurred everything else."

Sapong runs against Olympic gold medalist

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Zarinae Sapong raced in the 100m qualifying run in the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar last Saturday.

The Commonwealth sprinter was on Heat 3 and timed in at 13.14 seconds in the qualifier at the Khalifa International Stadium. Sapong raced against Jamaica's Elaine Thompson, who won the gold medal in the 100m and 200m events in the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil.

"It was such an amazing opportunity to be able to compete on the world stage! Being with such successful women in the sport and running alongside Olympic champion, Elaine Thompson, has been every-



SCREEN GRAB

CNMI sprinter Zarinae Sapong, fourth left, runs against Olympian Elaine Thompson, third left, and six others during the 100m qualifying event in the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar last Saturday.

thing," said Sapong, who was at the starting block next to the Jamaican, as the former was one Lane 4 and the latter was

on Lane 5.

"Witnessing world class athletes showcase their abilities was the most inspiring



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Zarinae Sapong races in the 100m qualifying run in the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar last Saturday.

experience and I look forward to future competitions. Thank you to my NMA (Northern Marianas Athletics) family for their constant support and allowing me to represent our island. Thank you to IT&E CNMI for keeping me connected to those supporting me from home," the Micronesian Games gold medalist added.

Sapong finished eighth in her qualifying heat, which was ruled by Thompson. The Jamaican submitted 11.14 seconds to lead three other qualifiers in the semifinals. Trinidad and Tobago's Kel-



ly Ann-Baptiste (11.21 seconds), Morlake Akino-sun (11.23 seconds)

of the U.S. and China's Manqi Ge (11.28 seconds) were the other qualifiers on Heat 3. Thompson went on to advance to the gold medal race and placed fifth after checking in at 10.93 seconds. Her compatriot, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, took the gold medal after setting a new world record (10.71 seconds), while Great Britain's Dina Asher-Smith (10.83 seconds) and Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou (10.90 seconds) rounded out the Top 3.

NMSA

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has plenty of money because of the ads they put out about the lottery but no. A lot of members up there do not understand how the operation is, that's why they're telling us to 'submit your report because we cannot give you money without receiving your report,' the NMSA official.

Rogolifoi added that funds collected through the lottery are not mixed in with money from the government. They are kept separately and used to fund athletes in their off-island competitions.

"What we get from the government goes to the operations of the sports complex," he said.

Uncertainties with lottery

Rogolifoi said that NMSA

has started working with a local accounting agency to help with the financial report since it dates back years. He added that the report should be completed in a month.

"I gave them everything, in terms of finances and they told us it would be completed in about a month. It's not easy because when this agency came in, the lottery program was in a mess because accountability-wise, I don't know what was going on, so that has [to be] corrected and it's going to take a while. Hopefully, sooner than later because we're trying to get the report out to the legislature and the governor," he said.

Rogolifoi hopes that the government can fund NMSA for at least one more year in preparation for the CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Connie's BBQ moved to solo second place in the team standings in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League after rallying past Saipan Adventure, 64-59, during a make-up game last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

Connie's now has an 8-2 record, just one victory behind the league-leading Tsingtao Boyz (9-2) and slightly ahead of Mawati (7-3), Pardz Ballers (7-4), and Saipan Adventure (7-4). Teams that will place in the Top 2 after the round-robin regular season will be paired against the last two squads that will make it to the playoffs.

Saipan Adventure seemed to be heading up the rankings, as it dominated Connie's BBQ in the first half, leading by as much as 16, 40-24. However, Connie's worked its way back into the game in the second half to steal the win.

Come-from-behind win for Connie's



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Connie's BBQ's Nelson Cabang, left, pulls up for a point-blank shot against an IT&E Light defender during their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last week at the Civic Center Court.

Connie's cut the deficit to single digit after the third period, 39-46, as it held Saipan Adventure to 6 points. Darwin Barbo, Ronald Esmores, and Nelson Cabang teamed up in

bringing Connie's back into contention as they scored 5 points each in the third frame.

Then in the fourth canto, Connie's managed to overtake Saipan Adventure after scor-

ing 25 points—the former's best output in a quarter. Barbo and Kerwin Dayao scored 7 points apiece in the fourth frame, outgunning the entire Saipan Adventure team that was limited to 13 markers.

Dayao and Barbo both finished in twin digits with the former recording 14 points and the latter adding 12. Dayao had two triples in the fourth canto and Lawrence Deleon Guerrero drilled two more treys, while Saipan Adventure made only one from the parking lot in the final frame.

Alvin Almario had 21 markers for Saipan Adventure.

Connie's BBQ 64—Dayao 14, Barbo 12, Deleon Guerrero 10, Cabang 10, Esmores 9, Delacruz 4, Bongacan 3, Centina 2.

Saipan Adventure 59—Almario 21, Flores 11, Verde-flor 9, Mungcal 8, Morales 8, Ocampo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-22, 24-40, 39-46, 64-59.

SWIM

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to NMISF president Colin Thompson, they already submitted a request to FINA, asking for support to rebuild the Marpi pool and they are also having discussions with the CNMI government.

"We submitted a request for FINA's support to rebuild the pool in Marpi. We are consulting with Myrtha Pools, which prepared a feasibility survey for the Marpi pool and we are speaking with representatives of the CNMI government," he said.

"We have opportunities to host future regional meets. We hope to find a way to re-open the pool before the Mini Games," Thompson added.

Swimming was initially included on the list of sports to

be played in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. However, the event was taken out of the lineup due to the closure of the Marpi pool and the scaling down of the quadrennial meet because of budget concerns. Then in the previous Northern Mariana Sports Association meeting, there was a discussion of considering swimming anew for the calendar of events for the 2021 Mini Games.

Besides the regional competition, Thompson said NMISF is also concerned of local and international races. He said it has been tough for local swimming competitors to train for international meets in the past year, leaving the CNMI bets at a disadvantage against their opponents, who have the right training facilities. Thompson added that the loss of the Mar-

pi pool has affected children, who are interested in pursuing swimming and have been used to attending regular swim lessons in an appropriate venue.

"It is tough on our swim teams. Although Tsunami Saipan and Saipan Swim Club both continue to train in the ocean and at modest private pools, they are put at a competitive disadvantage when racing against other Oceania teams (as they did in Samoa this summer at the Pacific Games) and against swimmers worldwide (as they did in Gwangju, South Korea in July at the FINA World Championships). The loss of the Marpi pool also impacted our ability to teach swimming to children," the NMISF head said.

"It is a loss for the whole island and for swimming in

the region. We are currently unable to host local meets, as well as our international meet which was a mainstay among Micronesian swimmers," he added.

Former NMISF president John Hirsh shared Thompson's sentiments, saying the Marpi pool closure has proven to be a setback for the islands' swimmers.

"It's been one year without a competitive pool in the CNMI. Not having a pool, so that our athletes can train and compete, has been very tough on our swimmers and their families. While our swim clubs have persevered and continued to train in the ocean and at other hotel pools, not having an 'official competition' venue is a major setback for swimming," he said.

MPU

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third MP United player to score in the lopsided match, as he closed out for the winning team in the 69th minute.

Shirley's Football Club averted a shutout loss after drawing a goal from Devin Igisomar in the 41st minute.

Kanoa 4, TanHoldings 1 Kanoa 6, Matansa 1

Spring season champion Kanoa Football Club kicked off its campaign in the fall competition with back-to-back victories.

Kanoa first duelled TanHoldings FC in a make-up match last Thursday and won by three.

Jaydee Jose knocked in a pair of goals in his first game this season, while Brian Lubao and Markus Toves delivered one apiece for Kanoa. All of Kanoa's goals were made in the second half with Toves drawing first blood after scoring in the 46th minute. Three minutes later, Jose lit up the board anew for Kanoa, while Lubao gave their team a 3-0 advantage after finding the back of the net in the 53rd minute.

TanHoldings also did not score in the first half and ended its long silence in the 65th, thanks to Ariel Narvaez's goal. However, Kanoa still had the last say with Jose getting his second goal in the 70th minute.

Two days after its season debut win, Kanoa returned to the pitch and picked up where it left off, dominating Matansa.

Again, Jose was on target, as he handed Kanoa two early goals with the first one registered in the fifth minute and the second in the sixth. Chad Escaner added one more for Kanoa in the 10th minute, giving their squad a promising lead going into the break.

When the game resumed, it was Matansa's turn to score first with Xin Wen Jin hitting his target in the 38th minute. However, it was an all-Kanoa show after that with Daniel Mar Pablo and Merrick Toves delivering the goods for the spring season champion.

Merrick brought Kanoa's lead back to 3, 4-1, after his goal in the 59th minute, while Pablo wrapped things up for their squad with his pair of goals made in a span of two minutes—68th and 70th.



Saints stifle
Cowboys without
scoring a TD

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Cards beat Cubs in
Maddon's finale,
clinch NL Central

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

ONE YEAR AFTER MARPI POOL SHUTDOWN

Swim group still hopeful

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation hopes to find a way to re-open the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool before Saipan hosts the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

The 50-meter pool in Marpi closed on Oct. 1, 2018 and one year after the shutdown, the facility is obviously not a pretty sight. The pool is algae-infested, turning the once clear blue water into a dirty swamp. The starting blocks also accumulated rust with the absence of maintenance work for the whole year. The walls of the swimming pool have also started to deteriorate over time and weeds have begun to inch closer and closer to the water.

The NMISF hopes to get



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

the pool back, rebuilding it through the help of FINA—the world-governing body in swimming—and the CNMI government. Since Kan Pacific's lease on the Marpi property

expired last year, the pool has been placed under the government's care through the Department of Public Lands.

According

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The Kan Pacific Swimming Pool has turned into a swamp one year after its closure.

MPU eases past Shirley's

MP United Football Club coasted to a 5-1 victory over Shirley's FC in the boys U15 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



Andrew Chung powered MP United to the easy win after scoring three goals. His back-to-back conversions in the 13th and 29th minute gave MP United a

good start. Chung then completed the hat trick in the 55th minute, while earlier in the 37th, Kristopher Pascual made it three in a row for MP United. Dev Bachani was the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Football Club's Devin Igisomar, left, and MP United FC's Richard Castro battle for possession during the first half of their boys U15 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMSA working on long overdue financial report



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Northern Marianas Sports Association is still hoping to receive funding from the government to continue taking care of the Oleai Sports Complex.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is in the process of generating a financial report in hopes of identifying funding for the Oleai Sports Complex.

In an interview with NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifo, he said that he was informed by Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) that if a report is generated, dating back to when NMSA took over the maintenance

of the facility in 2014, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation would sit down and work on identifying funding to keep NMSA as caretaker of the sports complex

"According to JP, once they receive the report, then that's when they're going to get down to the nitty gritty and try to identify some funding. They want the full report from 2014 when we took over to FY 2018," Rogolifo said.

Rogolifo explained that the delegation wants proof that NMSA still needs funding to operate even though the association gets money from the lottery program.

"They want proof about those ads you see on the paper about the lottery, those are just advertisements. We started that years ago and we're not making any money. People around here think that NMSA



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